GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL.

REPORT

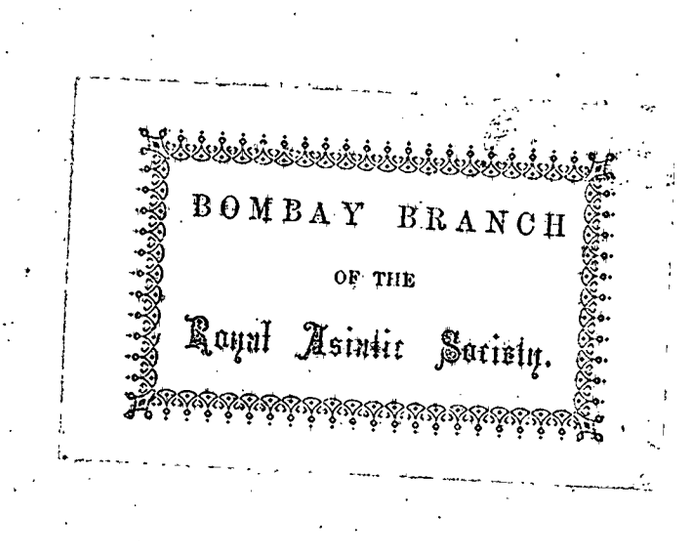
ON THE

ADMINISTRATION OF BENGAL

DURING

1904-1905.

00132981



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on 01 February, 2020

82°
84°
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NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES
OUDH
BENGAL
CHOTANAGPUR
CENTRAL PROVINCES
MADRAS
NEPAL
Kumaun Range
Gangetic Delta
Mahanadi R.
Godavari R.
Krishna R.
Pennar R.
Cauvery R.
Palar R.
Vellar R.
Vaigai R.
Tambraparni R.
Periyar R.
Cochin
Trivandrum
Cape Comorin
Pondicherry
Karikal
Negapatam
Tranquebar
Nagore
Cuddalore
Porto Novo
Sadras
Pulicat
Madras
Arcot
Vellore
Salem
Coimbatore
Erode
Trichinopoly
Madura
Tinnevelly
Dindigul
Ootacamund
Mangalore
Calicut
Tellicherry
Cannanore
Mahé
Palghat
Tanjore
Kumbakonam
Chidambaram
Vizagapatam
Ganjam
Berhampore
Cuttack
Balasore
Midnapore
Hooghly
Howrah
Calcutta
Chandernagore
Serampore
Barrackpore
Kishnagar
Berhampore
Moorshedabad
Rajmahal
Dinajpur
Rangpur
Purnea
Darjeeling
Titalya
Bhagalpur
Monghyr
Patna
Gaya
Shahabad
Arrah
Dehri
Sasseram
Rohtas
Palamau
Hazaribagh
Ranchi
Purulia
Manbhum
Singhbhum
Dhalbhum
Chaibassa
Sambalpur
Bilaspur
Raipur
Sirguja
Jashpur
Korba
Chanda
Nagpur
Wardha
Betul
Hoshangabad
Narsinghpur
Jubbulpore
Mandla
Seoni
Chhindwara
Saugor
Damoh
Sagar
Nerbudda R.
Tapti R.
Godavari R.
Wainganga R.
Wardha R.
Pranhita R.
Indravati R.
Sabarmati R.
Mahi R.
Narbada R.
Chambal R.
Jumna R.
Ganges R.
Gogra R.
Gandak R.
Kosi R.
Sone R.
Damodar R.
Subarnarekha R.
Brahmani R.
Baitarani R.
Mahanadi R.
Rihand R.
Son R.
Betwa R.
Ken R.
Tons R.
Gumti R.
Ghaghara R.
Rapti R.
Gandak R.
Kosi R.
Mechi R.
Teesta R.
Brahmaputra R.
Meghna R.
Hooghly R.
Rupnarayan R.
Kasai R.
Damodar R.
Subarnarekha R.
Brahmani R.
Baitarani R.
Mahanadi R.
Godavari R.
Krishna R.
Pennar R.
Palar R.
Cauvery

THE PROVINCE
OF
BENGAL
Scale 1 Inch = 32 Miles, or
NOTE.—The Longitudes are referrible to the Greenwich Meridian, taking that of Madras Observatory as 80°-17'-21" East. They require a correction of —2'-27" to make them accord with the most recent value of the Geodetic Longitude of that Observatory, viz., 80°-14'-54".
BAY OF BENGAL
MOUTHS OF THE GANGES
88
90
92
28
26
24
22
20

Holdsay, I.A., *Offg. Surveyor General of India,*
ber 1904.

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00132981

REPORT

ON THE

ADMINISTRATION OF BENGAL, 1904-1905.

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Calcutta:

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1906.

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VII
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SUMMARY.

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ADMINISTRATION OF BENGAL, 1904-1905.

PART I.—GENERAL SUMMARY.

CHAPTER I.

POLITICAL AND PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY.

HEAD-QUARTERS OF GOVERNMENT AND TOURS OF HIS HONOUR THE LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR OF BENGAL DURING 1904-1905.

Head-quarters of Government.

FROM April 8th to June 29th and from September 21st to November 11th the head-quarters of the Bengal Government were at Darjeeling. For the rest of the year they were at Calcutta.

Monsoon tours.

2. The two principal tours were during the monsoon, the first from the 21st of June to the 20th of July, and the second from the 2nd to the 14th of August. In the first tour His Honour visited Jalpaiguri, Rangpur, Rampur Boalia, Pabna, Faridpur, Agartala (Hill Tippera), Comilla, Chittagong, Noakhali, Dacca, Barisal and Khulna. In the second he visited Patna, Monghyr, Bhagalpur and Berhampore. During the interval between the two tours His Honour spent a few days in Calcutta and paid a visit to His Excellency the Viceroy at Simla. At all these head-quarters to which he went on tour, His Honour visited the local institutions, and discussed local questions with local officers, and also, where any special important question was involved, with the Heads of Departments concerned. He had an opportunity of making the acquaintance of the principal residents of the district, and gentlemen engaged in work under Government or connected with District Boards and Municipal Committees. At most of the head-quarters of districts also His Honour received addresses, in which were set forth any special claims of the district to the assistance of Government from public funds or otherwise. In all cases copies of the addresses were received some little time before, the subjects carefully enquired into, and definite answers given. Besides these matters of general interest His Honour visited the silk factory at Rampur Boalia and laid there the foundation-stone of Rani Hemanta Kumari Debi's Sanskrit College. He was present at an interesting silk and ivory exhibition at Berhampore. He discussed on the spot the acquisition of land at Chittagong in connection with the future development of that port and discussed also with the Commissioner, the Port Officers and some of the mercantile communities the proposed improvements in the port. He had an opportunity of making himself, in some degree, acquainted with the difficult work so successfully carried through by Mr. Beatson-Bell in the settlement of Backergunge. At Agartala he examined the administration of the State and discussed with the Raja of Hill Tippera several long pending questions and had the pleasure of opening additions to the excellent "Victoria Hospital" there.

At Ranchi.

3. On the 27th of August His Honour left Calcutta for Ranchi, where he spent nearly three weeks, returning to Calcutta on the 17th of

September. The principal objects of his visit to Ranchi were to discuss with local officers the question of the relief of the troops now stationed there by a small but adequate body of Military police, to take up on the spot a number of questions connected with the settlement and with the difficulties regarding the Mundas, and to fix on sites for the Central Lunatic Asylum for the Province, the Engineering College and the proposed Model College.

Short tours.

4. Besides these longer tours the Lieutenant-Governor made one or two brief tours for special purposes. On the 20th of August he visited, with the Hon'ble Mr. D. M. Hamilton and the Commissioner of the Division, the settlement which the former has planted in the island of Goosaba in the Sundarbans and inspected the work which Mr. Hamilton has carried on there. In November His Honour visited Burdwan; attended the important Sonepur Fair, where he was present at a very successful Cattle Show and an excellent Industrial Exhibition; and visited the Moharbhanj State, at the request of the Feudatory Chief, for the purpose of opening the new State Railway. In February he paid visits to the Maharajas of Gidhaur and Darbhanga, and, at the request of and in company with Mr. Douglas, Agent of the East Indian Railway, he inspected the Gaya-Katras Railway, and went as far as Koderma to settle certain questions connected with that locality. In March His Honour visited Basta in the Balasore district to inspect the working of the Chaukidari Panchayats, in connection with the new scheme for the maintenance of the Record of Rights; and at the end of that month proceeded to Pusa to be present at the laying of the foundation-stone of the Agricultural College by His Excellency the Viceroy on the 1st of April.

CHANGES IN THE ADMINISTRATION.

Changes in the administration.

5. No important administrative changes occurred during the year.

RELATIONS WITH TRIBUTARY STATES AND FRONTIER AFFAIRS.

Sikkim.

6. The year was one of very general prosperity throughout Sikkim. The health of the people was good and the crops on the whole were up to the average. The maize crop was an excellent one and prices ruled high owing to the large demands made by the Commissariat Department. The trade with Thibet which received a severe check during the Mission, though it has not yet made complete recovery, showed a considerable improvement on the preceding year. Emigration continued to take place towards Assam and Bhutan on account of the numerous demands for labour in connection with transport and road works, and as many as five hundred and fifty families are reported to have left the country. The finances of the State are satisfactory.

Bhutan.

7. Our relations with Bhutan continued friendly. The Dharma Raja died in 1904, and his office being in abeyance, the Deb Raja is for the first time acting in both capacities. The Tongsa Penlop is Prime Minister and virtual ruler of Bhutan.

Cooch Behar.

8. The general condition of the people in Cooch Behar continues to be prosperous. From an agricultural point of view, however, the year was not an entirely satisfactory one. Tobacco and jute were affected to a considerable extent owing to unfavourable climatic conditions, but the rice crop was fortunately unaffected, being fully an average one, and the price of common rice falling as low as Re. 1-6 per maund in certain districts. The

State maintains nine dispensaries and there was a large increase in the number of out-patients which is attributed to the very general prevalence of fever in an epidemic form. Education continues to make satisfactory progress. Not a single case of culpable homicide, robbery or dacoity was reported during the year, and heinous crime of all kinds was noticeable by its absence. It is interesting to note with regard to the revenue of the State that both collection and demand were the highest in the past six years. One of the causes of this increase in revenue is the satisfactory condition of the State Railway which continues to show an advance on previous years.

Hill Tippera.

9. The year was not a favourable one for all classes of the people. The outturn of the cotton crop, consequent upon the heavy and untimely fall of rain, was much below normal, while the price of rice rose considerably. The health of the people, however, was good and the number of immigrants into the State was more than double the number of emigrants. One of the most noticeable events of the year was the opening by the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal during his visit in July of the Victoria Memorial Hospital at Agartala, a spacious building with accommodation for forty beds for general patients and ten for contagious cases. A sad event occurred in December 1904—the death of the heir born to the Jubraj Bahadur in the previous year.

Tributary and Political States of Chota Nagpur.

10. The health and material condition of the people were generally good in all the States, especially in Gangpur, in spite of unfavourable climatic conditions at various seasons of the year. The total revenue from all the States showed a considerable increase over last year, an increase that was shared by all the States except Udaipur. One of the most important features in the administration during the year was the deputation of a member of the Civil Service to tour through all the States except Seraikela and Kharsawan, to make a detailed report concerning the material condition of the people, the mode of administration obtaining in each State and the relations existing between the Chiefs and their subjects. Education continues to advance, the aboriginal pupils in the various schools representing more than thirty different races.

Tributary Mahals of Orissa.

11. The year on the whole was a prosperous one in the Tributary States of Orissa. In spite of the fact that the rainfall was very unevenly distributed the crops were generally good and the health of the people satisfactory. There were no epidemics of cholera and small-pox as in the preceding year. All the States spend a certain portion of their incomes on education and the maintenance of dispensaries and a considerable sum was spent on public works during the year. The Mohurbhanj Light Railway was brought to completion during the year and declared open by His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal in December 1904.

CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE IN BENGAL.

Condition of the people in Bengal.

12. The condition of the people of Bengal was on the whole prosperous during the year under review. Some distress was apparent in certain districts arising from various causes, such as the prevalence of plague in the Patna Division, severe floods in the Bhagalpur Division and a partial failure of staple crops in Burdwan, but it was no where of so serious a nature as to affect the general material prosperity of the

province as a whole. The prices of foodstuffs fluctuated considerably, but the price of common rice in the majority of districts was lower than in the preceding year. Except in a few localities where special causes came into effect, such as the construction of the various lines of railways in Birbhum, Bankura, Manbhum, and Hazaribagh, wages have remained stationary.

CHAPTER II.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE LAND.

REALISATION OF THE REVENUE.

Collection of land revenue.

13. It is satistactory to note the continued reduction of the balance of arrear demand, which now stands at a considerably lower figure than at any time during the last five years. Only in five districts did the collections fall short of 99 per cent. In the remissions made there was a marked reduction, the figures being the lowest for the last five years. The percentage of total collections on current demand and of current collections on current demand, however, fell slightly short of those of the preceding three years.

Remittances of land revenue by special money-orders.

14. The very large increase in the number of revenue money-orders and the comparatively small increase in the total amount remitted show the growing popularity of small money-orders consequent on the reduction of fees for sums of Rs. 5 or less. The introduction during the year of separate forms of money-orders for land revenue and cesses has doubtless also contributed to the increased number of orders issued. Payment of rent by money-order is now in force throughout Bengal except in the districts of Darjeeling, Cuttack, Balasore, Angul, the Sonthal Parganas and Chota Nagpur. It is curious to note how in some districts the system is not yet taken advantage of by the tenants, only 24 money-orders for instance having been issued in Puri throughout the year. The Board has been requested to consider and report whether the system might not now be introduced into Chota Nagpur, where money-orders are already accepted in Government khas mahals.

Operation of the Sale Law.

15. The sale law was generally administered with due leniency and moderation. There were only nineteen cases in which Commissioners found it necessary to refer to Government for the annulment of sales on the ground of hardship.

Certificate cases.

16. The disposal of cases throughout the Province has been on the whole satisfactory. Section 21 of the Public Demands Recovery Act, which permits a judgment-debtor to redeem his property after sale by payment of the amount of the certificate with costs and a penalty equal to one-tenth of the auction-price to the purchaser, has worked satisfactorily. In various districts, auction-purchasers have shown themselves not unwilling to accept the return of their money with one-tenth of the purchase-money added as profit.

Land Registration.

17. The percentage of applications for land registration to the total number of interests in the registers for the whole province was only 4·1 per cent., which was slightly lower than in the previous year. With the appointment of better punchayets in the various districts, it is hoped that much will be done to improve land registration.

SURVEYS AND SETTLEMENTS.

Surveys and Settlements.

18. During the year under review survey and settlement operations were in progress in fifteen districts comprised in eight divisions, exclusive of certain municipal and other minor areas of the Political States of Kharsawan and Seraikela in Chota Nagpur, the survey and settlement of which have been undertaken at the request of their Chiefs. With a few trifling exceptions, the programme, which was large, was completely carried out. The object of securing all possible economy without impairing the efficiency of the work was kept prominently in view. The exceptionally low rate of cadastral survey and initial record-writing in Ranchi was due in a great measure to the fact that the people continued to supply labour free of charge. Progress was also made in smaller settlements under the Bengal Tenancy Act under the supervision of the Commissioners of Divisions.

LAND RECORDS.

Land Records.

19. The schemes submitted for the maintenance of settlement records in North Bihar, Chittagong and Orissa are still under consideration.

WASTE LANDS.

Waste Lands.

20. The reclamation operations in Fraserganj in the 24-Parganas portion of the Sundarbans began on the 15th November 1904, and are still in progress. It is reported that immigration has already begun, and a large number of settlers is expected as further reclamation takes place. The Backergunge portion of the Sundarbans was transferred during the year from the jurisdiction of the Commissioner in the Sundarbans to that of the District Collector, and under Government orders a system of raiyatwari settlements will in future replace the leases to large and small capitalists.

GOVERNMENT, WARDS' AND ATTACHED ESTATES.

Government, Wards' and Attached Estates.

21. There were no less than three thousand three hundred and sixty-eight estates under direct Government management during the year, of which only two hundred and seventy-five belong to private individuals, the remainder being the property of Government. The number of wards' and attached estates was one hundred and seventy-six. The revenue and cesses due to Government were generally punctually paid, but the total collections of rent and cesses due to the estates declined, being only 96 per cent. on the current demand as against 101·2 of the previous year. Careful attention continues to be paid to the important subject of the education of wards whose estates are under Government management.

REVENUE AND RENT-PAYING CLASSES.

Relations between landlords and tenants.

22. The Bengal Tenancy Act governs the relations of landlord and tenant in the greater portion of the Province. It is partially in force in Orissa and the Sonthal Parganas, and for the purposes of a record of rights, portions have been recently extended to the districts of the Chota Nagpur Division excepting Manbhum. The Act continues on the whole to work smoothly, although its object is frustrated in many parts of the Province by the attempts of zamindars to obtain illegal enhancement of rents in and out of court, to levy abwabs abolished by law

and to violate tenant-rights in other ways. Since the close of the year under review a Bill has been submitted to the Government of India which aims at checking illegal and inequitable enhancements and at facilitating the recovery by zamindars of rents justly due.

CHAPTER III.

PROTECTION.

LEGISLATION.

Acts passed.

23. Three Acts (Nos. I to III) were passed by the Bengal Council during the year 1904-1905, viz., Bengal Act I of 1905 (The Sunderbans Act), Bengal Act II of 1905 (The Bengal Repealing Act), and Bengal Act III of 1905 (The Bengal Smoke Nuisances Act).

Bill brought before Council.

24. A Bill to amend the Calcutta Port Act, 1890 (Ben. Act III of 1890), was introduced in Council during the year and passed after its close.

POLICE.

Police work in the Mufassal.

25. No addition was made to the sanctioned strength of the superior staff of the police force, but the subordinate staff was increased by 88 officers and men, the majority of whom were appointed for investigation work. The discipline of the force shows a considerable improvement, the number of departmental punishments being the lowest recorded during the last 18 years. The health of the force was hardly as good as in the preceding year. The work of the town chaukidars continues to be unfavourably reported upon, and the decision to replace them by constables is amply justified. Considerable success attended the experiment of establishing beats along the embankments to the 24-Parganas and of patrol boats in Mymensingh and Khulna. A scheme is now under consideration for the establishment of a separate River Police Force.

The total number of cognizable cases reported shows a slight increase on that of the preceding year. It is satisfactory to note that there has been a steady diminution in the number of riots. The number of true cases of rioting and unlawful assembly was, with the exception of the year 1881, the smallest since 1871. In the number of dacoities and burglaries there is also a decided decrease. On the other hand, there was a regrettable increase in the number of offences against the person, the number of murders being the highest since 1897. The Criminal Investigation Department continued to do good work. The long list of gang cases which were under trial during the year and which were dealt with by the Department and their results are sufficient evidence of its utility.

Police work in Calcutta.

26. The discipline of the Calcutta Police Force still leaves much to be desired, although there were fewer departmental punishments by way of dismissal or otherwise than during the previous year. Convictions for extortion, causing grievous hurt and giving false information still continue to disclose an unsatisfactory state of affairs. The number of resignations among members of the force shows an increase on last year.

A large proportion of these resignations were attributed to the fact that the pay of the constables is considerably below that of men of the same class otherwise employed in Calcutta; and that owing to improved discipline, opportunities for illicit gain have very largely diminished. It is satisfactory to note that the recent order of the Government of India sanctioning an enhancement of the pay of constables has already had an appreciable effect in checking the submission of resignations.

There was an appreciable decrease in the number of murder cases and of grave offences against the person. Burglaries, however, were more numerous than in the previous year, rising from 486 to 568 in the year under review. The results of cases before the courts were good, the percentage of cases ending in conviction to the total number tried being 90 as compared with 80·22 in 1903. The conviction of four separate gangs of criminals engaged in dacoity and other heinous crime was obtained with the assistance of the Bengal Police, while the successful prosecution of ninety-seven receivers of stolen property and the proceedings taken against two hundred and fifty-three bad characters and fifty-seven vagrants show a distinct advance on the preceding year and indicate that more attention is being paid to the extermination of professional crime.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE.

27. There was no material change in the constitution of the Criminal Courts of the province during the year. Two new sub-divisions were established—one at Balurghat in Dinajpur and the other at Barrackpore in the 24-Parganas. There was a very large increase in the number of criminal cases, which was most marked in the districts of Mymensingh, Nadia, Palamau and Muzaffarpur. The number of cases brought before Presidency Magistrates showed a considerable increase. There were also more cases brought to trial before Magistrates outside Calcutta than in the previous year. The number of appeals preferred and decided before the High Court was considerably higher, while the number of appeals to Sessions Courts was considerably less. The number of cases committed for trial or referred during the year to the Courts of Sessions was four more than in the previous year. **Work of the year.**

JAILS.

28. The total number of persons in prison during the year was 116,988 as compared with 120,691 in 1903, though the daily average population rose from 19,558 to 19,996. The most satisfactory feature of the year is that the death-rate calculated on the daily average convict population was only 20·2 per mille, which is the lowest on record. This is all the more satisfactory, as it is the result not merely of exceptional circumstances, but of the steady and continuous progress that has been made during the last thirty years, the average rate recorded for the years 1875—1879 being as high as 65·8 per mille. There was an improvement in the conduct both of warders and prisoners. A number of changes in the diet of prisoners have been introduced, the most important of these being an allowance of a ration of fish to all prisons in Bengal, where fish is the staple food of the population; an increase in the provision of oil and salt; and the extension to Superintendents of a wider discretion in the matter of altering the diet in accordance with local requirements and **Jails.**

providing special diets in the case of jails largely peopled by prisoners drawn from the aboriginal tribes.

CIVIL JUSTICE.

Calcutta High Court.

29. The number of civil suits pending on the Original Side of the High Court at the close of the year was less by 415 than at the close of the preceding year. The number of suits pending over one year also shows a considerable decrease.

Subordinate Civil Courts.

30. The total number of ordinary suits and small causes instituted in the Civil Courts is the highest on record, and represents the high-water mark of a steadily rising tide of institutions. The increase on the previous year occurred in each class of suits, those for money and moveables, rent-suits and title-suits showing increases of 8·01, 5·3 and 3·6 per cent., respectively. Tippera and Jessore again occupy the first and second places in respect of the number of their institutions. The enormous increase of 18 crores over the preceding year in the amount involved in original litigation is largely accounted for by the institution of a suit valued at over 19 crores in the district of Tirhut.

REGISTRATION.

Registration.

31. The total number of registrations was slightly higher than in the previous year. The aggregate value of immoveable property affected rose by nearly Rs. 1,00,00,000. The number of searches and applications for copies has steadily increased during the last three years, which indicates the growing appreciation of the value of registration. The average receipts and expenditure showed a slight increase on the two preceding years.

MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION AND LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT.

Municipalities outside Calcutta.

32. The number of municipalities remained the same as in the previous year, and their administration continues to be satisfactory. The improvement in collections so noticeable in recent years has been maintained, the percentage of current collections on current demand rising from 92·9 to 93·5. The outstanding balance has now been reduced to 5·9 per cent. of the current demand, which shows a further improvement on the figures of the previous year. The total income of Municipalities increased by Rs. 3,91,398, while expenditure increased by Rs. 4,07,435. Great attention has been paid to the maintenance and construction of water-works, and the necessity of improving the drainage of towns is being generally recognised by Municipalities. Much progress has been already made and many schemes are in various stages of preparation. The outlay on conservancy increased in all the divisions of the province except one, and the necessity of preventing the spread of disease through the public food-supply is now receiving general attention.

Calcutta Municipality.

33. The year has been marked by sustained progress in all departments of municipal activity. The most far-reaching and hopeful indication of this is the remarkable increase of interest in the administration exhibited by the Commissioners. Not only have the Standing Committees maintained their reputation for vigorous and successful work, but every department has been subjected to close examination at the hands of

Special Committees of the Corporation. The most important work accomplished during the year was the final reorganization of the Accounts Department. The failure of this Department to exercise efficient control over expenditure and to forecast accurately financial requirements had long been a subject of complaint and had attracted unfavourable notice from both the Supreme and the Local Governments. The salary of the post of Chief Accountant has now been raised, a number of inefficient clerks removed and more capable men appointed, while the staff has been increased, grouped into sections, each under a responsible head, so as to enable it to deal practically with current work. The good results of this reorganization have been already apparent.

The standards of collection both of consolidated rates and of license fees showed marked improvement and have now been placed on a satisfactory footing. Assessment appeals were punctually decided, and one of the causes which formerly hampered the work of collection was thus removed. The new Municipal Central Offices were occupied for the first time during the year to the convenience of the public who are engaged in municipal business as well as of the establishments employed.

The gross assessed valuation of the town shows a record increase of 13½ lakhs of rupees at the close of the year. High as the standard of collection reached in the previous year was, it has been surpassed in the year under review when the percentage was 99·43 on the net current demand.

The question of improving the water-supply of Calcutta is undoubtedly the most important and urgent question now before the Corporation. A scheme for the installation of pumps at Pulta which would put a pressure of 15 feet upon the pipes which convey the water to Tolla and thus increase the daily supply by six million gallons of water was sanctioned during the year under report at a cost of somewhat less than one lakh of rupees. The total population supplied under the continuous system at the end of the year exceeded 300,000 as compared with 200,000 at the close of the preceding year. The average daily consumption was 26·8 gallons, and it is not expected that the consumption can be reduced much below this figure. Drainage works are now in progress, dealing not only with the sewage of the suburbs, but also with the sewage and storm water of the town proper. The works include a complete sewerage system with branches extending from the docks on the west to Ballygunge, where the sewage is to be pumped into the new suburban high level sewer.

Puri Lodging-house Act.

34. During the year the Puri Lodging-house Act was extended to the town of Naihati in the district of the 24-Parganas, to the villages of Jhandiabund and Routarapur in the district of Puri, and to the portion of the village Moronpore in the district of Gaya. The number of licensed lodging-houses was less than in the previous year, but the number of persons for whom accommodation was provided was about the same. The health of the pilgrims was generally good, and there was no serious outbreak of epidemic disease. In Puri there was a most gratifying absence of cholera, the total number of persons admitted to hospital on account of this disease being only 46. There still remains, however, much room for improvement in respect of drainage and water-supply, and a scheme for the drainage of the town was drawn up during the year and is now under consideration.

District Boards.

35. The number of District Boards remained unchanged. A new Local Board was established at Barrackpore, but its effective existence began after the close of the year under report. Considerable progress has been made. The Government of India have now increased the provincial assignment by twelve and a half lakhs in order to permit of an annual grant to District Boards for sums amounting in the aggregate to one-fourth of their receipts from road cess. A new and growing source of income has thus been placed at their disposal, and they will now be in a better position to make adequate provision for their various needs not only in respect of roads and bridges but also in other directions. They will be able to take up veterinary work where they have not already done so, and to increase their expenditure on schools and hospitals and on water-supply and sanitation.

MARINE.

The Port of Calcutta.

36. The number of vessels arriving at and leaving the Port of Calcutta showed a considerable increase, being 288 more than that of the previous year. The pilotage receipts improved by 9 per cent. There were no serious casualties.

There were 49 qualified pilots on the strength, being the same number as in the previous year. The sanctioned number is 58. This number will be worked up to gradually as leadsmen qualify. The death-rate among European seamen during the year under review was somewhat higher than that of the previous year, but was considerably below the quinquennial mean.

The rules issued by this Government in September 1903 for regulating the grant of licenses for the possession and transport of petroleum in Bengal have been revised, and an amended draft of rates is now under the consideration of the Government of India.

A separate set of rules has been specially sanctioned for the grant of licenses to owners of motor vehicles.

Calcutta Shipping Office.

37. The receipts of the Calcutta Shipping Office show an increase as compared with those of last year. The number of seamen shipped and discharged continues to increase; but the number of European seamen employed continues to decline year after year.

Calcutta Port Trust.

38. The revenue of the Calcutta Port Trust was Rs. 88,86,726 and the expenditure Rs. 82,32,754, the surplus being Rs. 6,53,972. The total accumulated balances of the previous year amounted on the 31st March 1905 to Rs. 28,70,425. A portion of this sum has been added to the Revenue Reserve Fund, which now stands at Rs. 25,21,595. In addition to the Revenue Reserve Fund and the Sinking Fund for the repayment of debenture loans, the Commissioners have a Depreciation Fund for vessels and plant and a Fire Insurance Fund. The balance at credit of these funds stood at Rs. 11,89,063. The Wet Docks showed a surplus of Rs. 41,885, and the Dry Dock of Rs. 1,52,727.

Port of Chittagong.

39. The number of vessels that entered the Port of Chittagong during the year under review was smaller than that of the previous year, but the aggregate tonnage of the vessels was greater. With the exception of jute, the other chief articles of trade, such as grain, tea, salt, and mineral oil, were either fairly maintained or increased. The total trade of the

Port showed an increase of nearly 11 lakhs of rupees. The general question of improving the Port by revetment work, erection of additional jetties and purchase of a dredger was the subject of correspondence between this Government and the Government of India and the Port Commissioners. These subjects are now being dealt with by the newly constituted Government of Eastern Bengal and Assam.

The Ports of Orissa.

40. The sea-borne trade of the Orissa ports again showed a decline, owing to the diversion of trade from the sea to the railway.

CHAPTER IV.

PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

AGRICULTURE.

Reorganisation of the Agricultural Department.

41. Towards the end of the year under report, the Government of India announced that a large permanent grant would be given to every Province in India for the development of its Agricultural Department. Three and-a-half lakhs have since been allotted to Bengal, and it is proposed to create a separate Director of Agriculture with a complete staff of experts and to establish a Provincial Agricultural College under the supervision of European and Indian Professors. Besides providing agricultural education for the sons of a limited number of landholders, the College will provide trained men to supply the staff of all the other agricultural institutions in the Province and to fill the graded agricultural service, which it is hoped to form as soon as possible. As trained men are turned out of the Agricultural College, large farms will be opened at selected centres where agricultural experiments will be undertaken with a special view to the agricultural wants of the district within which the experimental farm is situated.

Work of the year.

42. The Department has during the past two years co-operated with the Board of Scientific Advice in regard to the alleged deterioration of jute. The conclusion arrived at that not only is there no proof that any degeneration in either of the two species of jute plants has occurred, but that there is strong evidence that the plants are now precisely as they were a century or more ago, should go far to allay the gloomy forebodings in consequence of which these enquiries were instituted. Irrigation experiments were undertaken on the lines indicated by the Irrigation Commission, especially with regard to economy in the use of water. Arrangements were made for establishing two more experimental farms—one at Rampur Boalia and the other at Rangpur. An attempt was made during the year to introduce superior varieties of Egyptian and American cotton and the best varieties from other Provinces of India, but failed largely owing to the severe and unusual frosts in the cold weather. The Silk Committee continues its useful work in the districts of Birbhum, Malda, Murshidabad and Rajshahi, and it is believed that with larger funds at its disposal its sphere of usefulness may be widely increased.

WEATHER AND CROPS.

Weather and Crops.

43. The rainfall was above the average in every Division of the Province. On the whole it cannot be regarded as a good agricultural year. The frost in February, when the cold was of a most unusual character, did much damage to the standing crops in Bihar and North Bengal. The estimated outturn for the whole Province of all the crops taken together amounted to 81 per cent. of the normal as against 88 per cent. in the preceding year.

HORTICULTURE.

Royal Botanic Garden, Calcutta.

44. The investigations into the species of agaves found in India, referred to in last year's report, have been continued and concluded during the year, and the report of the results which promise to be of great value is now in the press. Considerable attention was also given to the growing of the different species and varieties of cotton supplied for experiments by the Agricultural Department and the Reporter on Economic Products. The special grant allotted to the garden during the year has enabled the general Herbarium to be entirely reorganised.

FORESTS.

Forests.

45. The only material change during the year in Reserved forests was an addition of 11,520 acres due to the reservation of the Sachaphu forest in the Buxa Division. The total area of Reserved forests at the end of the year was 6,049 square miles, representing 4 per cent. of the total area of the Province. In Protected forests there were decreases of 84,537 acres in the Singhbhum Division, where the forest survey figures for demarcated blocks in the Kolhan estate have been substituted for former estimates of the total area of waste land, 3,650 acres in Puri on account of leases for cultivation and 3,861 acres in the Sunderbans for the same reason. The total area at the close of the year was 3,428 square miles, or 2·27 per cent. of the area of the Province. There was a marked diminution in the number of forest fires, of which there were only 48, affecting $10\frac{1}{4}$ square miles, against 68 outbreaks affecting 109 square miles in the previous year. These good results were due to a favourable fire season and also to the recent efforts at prevention undertaken in co-operation with the Natives States which border on the Singhbhum and Puri forests.

MANUFACTURES, MINES AND FACTORIES.

Manufactures.

46. The area under jute was 2,850,000 acres and the total outturn of the crop 7,267,500 bales, both in excess of the figures for the previous year. The jute mills which were 36 in number at the close of the year gave employment to no less than 131,886 persons. The ten cotton mills turned out woven goods to the extent of 720,224 lbs employing 11,227 persons. The number of tea plantations was 411, being 11 less than in the preceding year. But although the area under tea was reduced, the outturn was almost 3,000,000 lbs more than last year. The various gardens, all except 47 of which are in the districts of Jalpaiguri and Darjeeling, employed 102,064 persons. The outturn of indigo is considerably less than last year, the figures for which showed so great an improvement on the two years that immediately preceded it

The amount of sulphate of quinine turned out by the Government Cinchona Factory was the largest on record and the total receipts show a considerable increase over those of the previous year.

Mines.

47. There were 256 coal mines at work during the year, the total output of coal being 7,063,680 tons as compared with 6,361,212 tons last year. The total number of persons employed was 75,804.

Factories.

48. The total number of factories at the close of the year was 267 against 259 at the close of the previous year. Thirty-four new factories were brought under the operation of the Act during the year, while 26 factories were removed from the list. The average daily number of operatives employed was 234,802 as compared with 213,014 in the previous year. Their general health was good throughout the year. There were no prosecutions instituted under the Act.

TRADE.

Frontier trade.

49. The value of the sea-borne trade of the Province in 1904-1905 was the highest yet recorded—103 crores of rupees. Of the imports (valued at 38 crores) manufactured cotton—piece-goods, yarn, etc.,—is the most important item. The imports in 1904-1905 were higher than in any previous year, and represent nearly one-half of the total import trade. Metals and machinery taken together make up another 16 per cent. of the total, and in this case too the value of the imports was the highest on record. Sixty-two per cent. of the total imports came from the United Kingdom and 14 per cent. from Australasia. Jute is the most important staple of the export trade representing one-third of the whole. The value of the jute exported this year, raw and manufactured, is the highest recorded. Grain and pulse, opium and tea are each credited with over 10 per cent. of the aggregate value of exports, and the exports of grain and pulse and of tea were more in quantity than in any previous year. The United Kingdom with 29 per cent. is the largest importer of Indian goods. Next come the United States with 13 per cent., and Germany and China with 11 per cent. each. Almost the whole of the Foreign trade is still centred in Calcutta, although since the Assam-Bengal Railway has been finished and facilities have been afforded for direct shipment to the United Kingdom, the export trade of Chittagong in jute and tea has largly increased.

Foreign trade.

50. The frontier trade of the Province by land with Nepal, Thibet, Sikkim and Bhutan was valued at 270 lakhs, about nine-tenths of this amount representing trade with Nepal. It is noteworthy that the value of the imports into Bengal from these countries (162 lakhs) is considerably greater than that of the exports (108 lakhs) from Bengal to them.

External and internal trade of Bengal.

51. Of the trade with other provinces and different parts of India, that by sea was valued at about 13 crores. Of this amount, imports, principally kerosene oil and teakwood from Burma, and cotton goods from Bombay, represented over 5 crores; and exports, chiefly coal, grain and pulse, and gunny-bags, over 7 crores. The external trade of Bengal by rail and river was valued at nearly 49 crores of rupees; the imports, consisting principally of produce brought down to Calcutta for export over sea, being valued at over 27 crores. The exports were valued at 21 crores, and consist chiefly of goods imported into Calcutta by sea. Of

a like nature, but more extensive, is the trade of the Province with its chief port; the total imports into Calcutta from the Bengal districts being valued at about 46 crores, and the exports at over 27 crores.

BUILDINGS.

Imperial works.

52. Additional golas were under construction at Salkea to provide further accommodation for the bonding of salt, while opium weighment and settlement centres were in course of erection where required. The new Foreign and Military Secretariat Buildings were practically completed. Churches and Cemeteries, Customs, Stamps and Stationery, Museum and Observatory buildings, which were previously classed as "Provincial," were transferred during the year under the head "Imperial."

Provincial works.

53. Several works were carried out or in progress in connection with the Civil and Criminal Courts in the Province. The work of extension of the High Court was commenced. The construction of the new Presidency Jail buildings was continued. The buildings for the new Dacca College and School of Engineering were in progress, while a new block at the Ravenshaw College, Cuttack, was commenced. Of the various Medical works, the most important was the reconstruction of the Campbell Hospital, Sealdah, which was much needed. In order to provide accommodation for the office of the Board of Revenue, and additional accommodation for some of the offices located in Writers' Buildings, a new block was constructed in the compound of Writers' Buildings. As His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor decided to live among the people of Bihar at least once yearly, the property known as "Chajjubagh" at Bankipore was acquired for his accommodation during his stay there. Quarters were provided during the year for several Government officials, including Munsifs. Steps were taken for erecting a suitable memorial on the battle-field of Plassey, together with small pillars bearing inscriptions indicating the various sites of interest, and a bungalow for the use of visitors thereto, with the necessary roads and paths.

COMMUNICATIONS.

Communications.

54. The alignment of a feeder road in the district of Ranchi to the Bengal-Nagpur Railway was marked out. A direct route from the plains in the district of Jalpaiguri to the Thibet border was investigated during the year.

RAILWAYS AND TRAMWAYS.

Administration.

55. This Government controls in some measure a few small railways of local importance. The larger Railway systems are under the control of the Railway Board and the Government of India.

Mileage.

56. The total mileage of railways in this Province is 4,663. During the year 104 miles were opened, of which a little over 7 miles were on the standard, 30½ miles on the metre, 58 miles on the 2′ 6″ and 8½ miles on the 2′ gauge.

Lines purchased.

57. The Sultanpore Branch Railway and the Ranaghat-Krishnagar Railway were purchased, and now form part of the Eastern Bengal State Railway System.

Surveys.

58. Surveys were sanctioned for lines (1) Purulia to Ranchi and (2) Pertabganj to Ghora Ghat. The survey of the proposed extension of the

Murshidabad Branch from Lalgola to the mouth of the Bhagirathi was in progress, and the following surveys were completed: (1) from Sara to Sirajganj, (2) Forbesganj to the Nepal frontier, (3) the location of the line from Katihar *viâ* Malda to Godagari, and (4) Hooghly-Katwa-Azimganj Barharwa.

Lines sanctioned.

59. The lines sanctioned for construction were (1) from Katihar *viâ* Malda to Godagari, (2) Bhagalpur to Bausi, (3) Daronda-Maharajganj and (4) Savan-Thawe.

Light Railways.

60. The Barasat-Basirhat Light Railway and the Jagatballabpur-Antpur Section of the Howra-Amta Light Railway were opened during the year.

As in previous years, the Darjeeling-Himalayan Railway showed the best results in the percentage of its earnings to its capital cost.

CANALS.

Irrigation.

61. The Major Irrigation works in Bengal are divided into two classes:—

I.—Productive works. | II.—Protective works.

Productive works.

The Productive works comprise the Orissa, Midnapore, Hijili Tidal and Sone Canals. The Hijili Tidal Canal provides for navigation only; while the others provide both for irrigation and navigation. The total area irrigated by these Canals during the year 1904-1905 was 800,227 acres, or 9,104 acres less than in the previous year. This was chiefly due to a decrease in the *rabi* irrigation from the Sone Canals.

Receipts.

62. The total receipts during the year from irrigation, navigation and miscellaneous sources aggregated Rs. 20,40,635, or Rs. 25,988 more than the receipts for the previous year. This was due to the *rabi* irrigation from the Sone Canals being better during 1903-1904 than in 1902-1903.

Protective works.

63. The protective works are the Tribeni and Dhaka Canals. The latter Canal, a small work, deriving its supply from the Lal Bakeya river in the Champaran district, is nearly complete and will shortly come into operation. The progress on the Tribeni Canal has been very slow, due to the difficulty of procuring skilled labour, but it is hoped that the head sluice may be complete and the first 20 miles of the Canal may be well advanced in the present working season.

EMBANKMENTS AND DRAINAGE WORKS.

Embankments and drainage.

64. The total length of the flood embankments maintained during the year was 2,152 miles; the area protected being 8,695,137 acres. The total expenditure incurred on embankments and drainage works was Rs. 6,38,925, of which Rs. 4,33,381 were spent on embankments.

CHAPTER V.

REVENUE AND FINANCE.

IMPERIAL FINANCE.

Statistics.

65. The Imperial receipts amounted to Rs. 17,09,16,591 as against Rs. 14,83,72,672 in 1903-1904, and the charges were Rs. 3,63,68,345 as compared with Rs. 4,07,56,873 in the preceding year. The increase

in receipts was chiefly under the head "Land Revenue," owing to smaller grants to Provincial revenues on account of a new settlement, under "Opium," owing to sales at a larger average price, and under "Stamps" due to the Imperial revenues getting one-half instead of one-fourth of total stamp revenue under the terms of the new settlement. The decrease on the expenditure side was mainly under "Opium," due to smaller payments to cultivators on account of smaller outturn.

LAND REVENUE.

Land Revenue.

66. The total current demand increased from Rs. 4,04,71,325 in 1903-1904 to Rs. 4,06,26,914 during the year under review. As in the preceding year, the demand in permanently-settled estates was the lowest, and that in estates held direct by Government the highest on record during the last five years. The total collections, current and arrear, amounted to 96·91 per cent. on the total demand, and the percentage of total collections on current demand was 99·72, both being very slightly lower than in the previous year.

CUSTOMS.

Customs.

67. The net customs duty for the year amounted to Rs. 4,10,23,798, which shows a considerable recovery from the previous year, though still below the figures for 1902-1903. There was a rise of 9·2 per cent. in the value of the aggregate sea-borne trade of Bengal, which was the highest on record. In the foreign trade the rise in value was 9·6 per cent. and in the coasting trade 6·5 per cent. Taking both the foreign and coasting trade together, Calcutta represents 96·35 per cent., Chittagong 3·02, Balasore ·39, Cuttack ·17, Puri ·04 and Narainganj ·03. The net income of the Custom House, Calcutta, shows an increase of over 32 lakhs—an increase shared between customs and salt.

Merchandise Marks Act.

68. Cases under the Merchandise Marks Act rose to 493, against 325 in the previous year. The increase is attributed to the increased activity and vigilance of the Custom House officers and was not due to greater laxity in the observance of the provisions of the Act.

OPIUM.

Opium.

69. The outturn of opium in the Bihar Agency was 32,439 maunds The average consistence of the opium manufactured was 74·68° as compared with 73·80° during the previous year, the improvement being due to the strong west winds that prevailed at the time of collection. On the other hand, the consistence of the drug in the Benares Agency was abnormally low, being considerably below the average for the last ten years. This is attributed partly to the oversaturation of the soil at the time of sowing and partly to the cloudy weather with which the season closed.

Abolition of khurchan in the Benares Agency.

70. The chief incident of the year was the abolition of lambardar's khurchan and the substitution therefor of a commission calculated upon the yield of each license. The effect is that Government now pays for the services of the lambardars instead of saddling the cultivators with this cost. The additional cost to Government is not large, and the abolition of the khurchan, which was a constant source of dispute between the lambardar and his *assamis*, is an undoubted gain.

SALT.

71. The most important incident of the year was a further reduction from Rs. 2 to Re. 1-8 per maund in the duty of salt manufactured in any part of British India other than Burma or Aden, or imported into any part of British India other than Burma, with effect from the 22nd March 1905. **Reduction of Salt duty.**

72. The scheme for the reorganization of the Salt Department mentioned in last year's report has been sanctioned by the Secretary of State, but orders were not received till after the close of the year under review. The Commissioner of Excise and Salt, Bengal, has since made revised proposals in the light of changed circumstances and they have been submitted for the orders of Government. During the year under review the orders of Government were received on the report of the Salt Committee. As regards the bonding system, the Government of India, agreeing with the Salt Committee, considered that the system of inland warehouses is convenient and economical, though at the same time involving some trouble and expense to the Government. They considered, however, that in districts with water communication the advantages of the system outweighed the drawbacks, though in other districts, where the trade has been slow to take advantage of the warehouse system, the Government of India are disinclined to permit its introduction. The maximum deduction on account of actual wastage from the duty payable has been fixed at 2 per cent. by a notification issued on January 1st, 1905. **Administration.**

EXCISE.

73. The net revenue of the year, which amounted to Rs. 1,59,76,277, is the highest on record, showing an increase of nearly five lakhs on the previous year. The largest increase occurred under the head of "country spirits," ganja coming second, followed at a considerable distance by rum and imported wines. There was a decrease under pachwai and opium. Taking the population of Bengal according to the last Census at 75 millions, the incidence of the excise revenue of the year is 3 annas 7 pies per head. There was a considerable reduction in the number of persons arrested for offences against the Excise and Opium laws. The district of the Sonthal Parganas accounts for the whole of this decrease, where there was a material reaction after the repressive measures of the previous year, and where the warning issued to all the headmen of their responsibility in the matter appears to have had effect. **Revenue.**

STAMPS.

74. Stamp revenue during the period under report was realized under the Indian Stamp Act and the Court-fees Act, amounting to Rs. 2,08,65,770, which exceeded the receipts of the preceding year of the triennium. The increase of revenue occurred under both Judicial and non-Judicial Stamps. During the year Act XV of 1904 was passed to amend the Indian Stamp Act, 1899. Owing to the small demand for them, the Government of India sanctioned the discontinuance of the issue of certain of the higher denominations of stamps at present in use after the present stock has been exhausted. **Statistics.**

INCOME-TAX.

Income-Tax.

75. During the year under review a thorough reorganisation took place in the assessing establishments in the mufassal which were very considerably reduced. This was necessitated by reason of the diminution of work effected by the passing of Act XI of 1902 which exempted from taxation incomes under Rs. 1,000. The total collection on account of tax shows an increase on the previous year of 2·5 per cent., but a decrease of 14·6 as compared with the figures for 1902-1903. The decrease is the natural consequence of the exemption of incomes under Rs. 1,000 which had contributed 17·3 per cent. of the total collections in 1902-1903.

FOREST REVENUE.

Forest Revenue.

76. The receipts from forests for the year were Rs. 12,35,455. Charges were Rs. 7,13,212, thus leaving a net income of Rs. 5,22,743. This shows a considerable recovery after the fall in revenue of the previous year. All divisions were worked at a profit, except Angul, which would itself have shown a profit but for an extraordinary expenditure on surveys. The Sundarbans revenue, which was responsible for the decline in revenue of the previous year, shows only a moderate recovery.

PROVINCIAL FINANCE.

Provincial Finance.

77. The year opened with a balance of Rs. 1,42,52,918 and closed with one of Rs. 1,30,00,100, the result being a deficit of Rs. 12,52,818. The receipts amounted to Rs. 5,18,98,948 as against Rs. 6,34,20,131 in 1903-1904, and the charges were Rs. 5,31,51,766 as against Rs. 5,46,96,635 in the preceding year. The decrease in receipts was chiefly due to the Provincial Government receiving a smaller proportion of the receipts under Stamps, Excise, Assessed Taxes and Forests and to the imperialization of the miscellaneous receipts under the head "Customs" in the new settlement. No special assignments were given from the Imperial Revenues as in the preceding year. The decrease in expenditure was chiefly due to the charges of the Customs Department having been made wholly Imperial and to smaller grants to the Public Works Department.

LOCAL FINANCE.

Local Finance.

78. The total receipts of the Incorporated Local Funds amounted to Rs. 1,12,45,324 and the charges to Rs. 1,11,57,040. The balance rose from Rs. 39,62,151 to Rs. 40,50,435. The total receipts of the Excluded Local Funds (exclusive of Municipal Funds) amounted to Rs. 10,15,339 and the charges to Rs. 9,03,074, the closing balance being increased by about one lakh. The Kolhan Market Fund was created during the year in Singhbhum for the improvement of the markets and trade generally in the Kolhan Government estates. The Outdoor Dispensary Fund at Dum-Dum was converted into a Cantonment Hospital Fund.

ROAD AND PUBLIC WORKS CESSES.

Statistics.

79. Both cesses were levied at the maximum rate of one anna in the rupee in the 43 districts in which the Cess Act, IX (B.C.) of 1880, is in force. In spite of the very large increase in the preceding year, there was a further increase of Rs. 1,63,271 in the current demand during the year under review. This increase was mainly due to revaluations in the districts of Rangpur, Noakhali, Gaya, Rajshahi and Hazaribagh. There was an increase in the collections of over $2\frac{3}{4}$ lakhs.

CHAPTER VI.

VITAL STATISTICS AND MEDICAL SERVICE.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Vital Statistics.

80. The last quarter of the year under review was very unhealthy owing to the long cessation of the monsoon. The death-rate, however, was slightly lower than in the previous year, while the number of births registered was the highest on record. The mortality from cholera was barely two-thirds of that of 1903. The number of deaths from small-pox also sensibly declined. On the other hand, more than two-thirds of the total number of deaths in the Province were attributed to fever, though owing to the unfitness of the reporting agency it is apparent that all, except a few well-known diseases, are put down indiscriminately under this head. The prevalence of malaria being known to depend largely on the amount of stagnant water in *bils* and moribund rivers, Government has recently sanctioned a project for draining an area of two hundred and ninety square miles in the 24-Parganas at a cost of over seventeen lakhs, while other similar schemes in the Rajshahi and Pabna districts are under preparation.

PLAGUE.

Plague.

81. The number of deaths from plague in 1904 was the highest on record since the disease invaded the Province. Nearly three-fourths of the mortality occurred in three districts—Patna, Shahabad, and Saran. In Calcutta the number of deaths was lower than in any year since 1899. Preventive measures consisted chiefly in disinfection and the evacuation of infected houses. Inoculation is still received with suspicion and makes but little progress. The destruction of rats has been very largely carried on. On the advice of a conference convened by the Lieutenant-Governor in October 1904, the penal provisions of the Plague Regulations which had been issued under the Epidemic Diseases Act were abrogated and revised instructions were drawn up, in which special emphasis was laid on the absolute importance of working with the people and of avoiding the least appearance of interfering with their rooted prejudices, while funds were placed at the disposal of Commissioners for expenditure on plague prevention and relief.

EMIGRATION.

Colonial Emigration.

82. The number of emigrants despatched to the colonies continues to show a decline. This is attributed to the prevalence of plague, the good harvests of the two previous years, and especially to the increased demand for local labour. Six emigration agencies were at work during the year, of which five represented British colonies. The largest number of emigrants were despatched to Natal and Mauritius.

Inland Emigration.

83. There was an increase in the number of emigrants in the labour districts as compared with the previous year. The variation in the number recruited under the different methods authorised by law is

remarkable. The figures of recruitment by licensed recruiters under Chapter III of the Act are less than half those of the preceding year, while the number of persons recruited by free labour agents working under section 92 is almost double. Increased activity in recruitment was most noticeable in Hazaribagh, where it is largely attributed to bad harvests.

Inland Labour Transport Fund.

84. The unsatisfactory condition of the Inland Labour Transport Fund rendered the reduction of establishments imperative. The period of appointment of the Travelling Superintendent which had been reduced to six months was eventually extended, at the instance of the Chief Commissioner of the Central Provinces, to nine months. The absence of cholera outbreaks allowed the abolition of the cholera hospitals at Chandpur and Madhupur and the reduction of establishments at Naihati and Asansol.

MEDICAL INSTITUTIONS.

Calcutta Institutions.

85. Much has been done recently to improve and modernize the leading medical institutions in Calcutta, and the standard of efficiency in the principal hospitals has been substantially raised. While the number of indoor patients has remained stationary, the number of outdoor patients shows a steady increase. The increase is most marked in the case of females, which is attributed to the measures taken in recent years to secure greater privacy for female patients. The receipts from paying patients were the highest on record, but it is unsatisfactory to note that the amount contributed by private liberality is deplorably small.

Mufassal Dispensaries.

86. Considerable progress has been made in the matter of dispensaries in the mufassal. The number of outdoor patients continues to increase, a particularly satisfactory feature being the increase in the number of female patients which in 1904 considerably exceeded a million. Efforts have been made in some districts to supplement the medical relief afforded by the dispensaries by the supply of medicine chests to village headmen, by the deputation of medical officers to visit outlying market centres, and in Faridpur by the establishment of a floating dispensary.

Eden Sanitarium, Darjeeling.

87. Some much-needed improvements in the Eden Sanitarium have been recently carried out, but much still remains to be done to place the institution in a thoroughly satisfactory condition. There is, however, very little money available, and it is unsatisfactory to note that the income from subscriptions has dwindled to only three hundred and fifty rupees in the year under review.

Lunatic asylums.

88. The admissions to lunatic asylums during the year and the number under detention at its close were the highest on record. Some progress has been made during the year with the scheme for a central asylum for native lunatics, where they may be under the continuous care of a highly-trained specialist. Proposals for a similar reform in the case of European lunatics are now before the Government of India.

SANITATION.

Sanitary improvements

89. Some important drainage schemes have been undertaken during the year, and much has been done to improve the water-supply by the

construction of new tanks and wells and the cleansing of old ones. Progress was also made in improving the conservancy arrangements in towns, but the difficulties in connection with the installation of septic tanks have not yet been wholly solved. Special attention has been drawn to the proper surface drainage of towns which is placed first in the list of sanitary needs. Praiseworthy efforts have been made by certain municipalities in the direction of improving insanitary *bustis*.

VACCINATION.

Vaccinating Staff.

90. There has been a considerable increase in the number of vaccinations, and it is satisfactory to note that nearly two-fifths of the total infant population of the Province were vaccinated in 1904-1905. Proposals for raising the status of Inspecting officers have been submitted to the Government of India, and a system of rewards to vaccinators has been introduced. A scheme for the better training of the vaccinators and inspecting staff and for the more extended use of calf-lymph is under consideration.

CHAPTER VII.

INSTRUCTION.

Administration.

91. The most important fact in the history of collegiate education during the year is the commencement of the working of the new Universities Act. A new Senate of the University has been formed and committees appointed to begin the work of producing a new body of regulations. The subject of residential colleges has been occupying the attention of the Lieutenant-Governor. A new college largely residential has been nearly completed at Dacca. The Patna College is being improved in this respect, and the scheme for a Model College at Ranchi has been greatly advanced, liberal subscriptions having been already received and measures taken for the selection of a site and the acquisition of land. After enquiry a special officer was appointed as Inspector of Students' Hostels and Messes, and Government has accepted financial responsibility for a scheme for hiring houses for the use of students. It has been decided to transfer the Sibpur Civil Engineering College, which is the only College in the Province imparting technical education, from its present site to Ranchi in the hope of increasing its popularity and improving the health and discipline of the students.

Statistics.

92. Primary education shows a falling off both in the number of schools and in the attendance, the decrease being confined to lower primary schools. There has been a similar falling off in the attendance of secondary schools, the decrease being most marked in the case of middle vernacular schools and being attributed to the conversion of many of these schools into middle English ones. There was a slight increase in the number of pupils attending the Arts Colleges. The subject of commercial education was under consideration during the year, and the courses of studies were prescribed, evening classes being opened in March and day classes in June in the Presidency College.

They promise to be both popular and successful. The number of Muhammadans attending schools and colleges decreased by 3·1 per cent. during the year, but the result of the University examinations shows an improvement. It is satisfactory to note that female education continues to advance, both the number of schools and the attendance being higher than in the previous year.

REFORMATORY SCHOOLS.

Reformatory schools.

93. The number of boys admitted to the Reformatory Schools in 1904 was the lowest recorded since 1899. It is noticed with satisfaction that section 31 of the Reformatory Schools Act, 1897, and section 562 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898, which provide for the discharge of youthful offenders after due admonition or for their being set at liberty on probation or on security for good conduct being furnished by their parents or guardians, are being more freely resorted to. The health of the boys in the reformatories was good. The training of the boys at Alipore is mainly industrial and that at Hazaribagh agricultural. There has been a marked falling off in the number of boys licensed out during 1904, but there has been a very great improvement in the conduct of boys licensed out from Alipore, only eight having absconded from their employers as against nineteen in the previous year. It is hoped that by means of a sensible relaxation of the licensing rules and the grant of monetary assistance to the boys during their period of probation a considerable number may in this way find profitable employment that will lead to useful careers in after life.

LITERATURE AND THE PRESS.

Literature and the Press.

94. The number of publications received and catalogued in the Bengal Library during 1904 was 3,054 against 2,887 in the preceding year. Of these 2,141 were books and 913 periodicals. In the literature of the year there was nothing of special interest. The attitude of the Press remained unchanged.

CHAPTER VIII.

ARCHÆOLOGY.

Archæology.

95. The work of restoring and preserving the ruins at Gour and Pandua in Malda was continued. The pillar bearing an inscription in front of the temple at Deo Bonorak in Shahabad was raised on a masonry platform, and the work of preserving the Jogu Mohan of the Kanarak Temple in Puri was completed.

CHAPTER IX.

ZOOLOGICAL GARDEN, CALCUTTA.

Zoological Garden.

96. The most noteworthy event of the year was the acquisition of a strip of land along the western boundary presented from the Kidderpore Orphanage Estate by the Government of India. The number of visitors to the gardens has greatly increased.

VETERINARY DEPARTMENT.

97. The number of students who attended the Bengal Veterinary College throughout the year under review was almost double the number of the preceding year, and the results of the examinations are highly creditable to the Principal and teaching staff. In consequence of the rapid development of the College external improvements have been sanctioned at an estimated cost of four lakhs of rupees. The Veterinary Hospital, Belgachia, continues to do excellent work, and progress has been made in twenty-one veterinary dispensaries now working in the mufassal. Progress made.

PART II.

THE REPORT

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MAP OF BENGAL.

ADMINISTRATION OF BENGAL, 1904-1905.

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For—

PHYSICAL FEATURES OF THE COUNTRY, AREA, CLIMATE AND CHIEF STAPLES.

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See—

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION REPORT FOR 1901-1902, PART II, PAGES 1—160.

Changes in the Administration.

1. No administrative changes of special importance were introduced during the year under review. Such minor changes as occurred will be noticed in the chapters dealing with the branch of administration with which they are concerned.

Relations with Tributary States and Frontier Affairs.

SIKKIM.

Area, 2,818 miles; chief products, timber, rice, wheat, barley, maize and cardamoms; population, 59,014; revenue, Rs. 1,53,698; present Maharaja, Thutop Namgyal; born, 1860; family of Thibetan origin; residence, Gangtok; has male heir, Raj Kumar Sidkyong Tulku.

Sikkim.

2. The rainfall during the year was 128·14 inches, being slightly below the average for the past three years. The maize crop was good, and prices were high owing to the large demands made by the Commissariat Department. The cardamom crop was fairly good, but the outturn was below the average, owing to the fact that many fields were left uncultivated, the Thibet Mission having attracted large numbers of the labouring population. Paddy and rice of an inferior quality were grown in large quantities, and prices were moderate. The apple orchards at Lachung and Lachen did not bear much fruit. The trees had overborne in the previous year and had to be severely pruned. A good crop is expected this year. The health of the people remained good; the only epidemic of the year was one of cholera, which spread up the line of communications of the Mission from the Lower Tista Valley and got as far as the fifth mile stage beyond Gangtok before it was stamped out. Emigration continued to take place towards Assam and Bhutan, on account of the numerous demands for labour in connection with transport and road works, and some 550 families left the country. The trade with Thibet, though still much below the average, is recovering from the check it received during the Mission, and shows a considerable improvement on the preceding year. There was only one serious case of crime, a Lance-Naik attached to the Supply and Transport Department of the Thibet Mission Escort being convicted of criminal breach of trust and sentenced to 15 months' imprisonment. The

finances of the State are very satisfactory. Rupees 84,200 were added to the Reserve Fund during the year under report, the surplus at the end of the year being Rs. 96,691-15-7. This was largely due to the handsome profit of over Rs. 50,000 from the Cooly corps which was raised in December 1903 to carry Government stores from Gangtok to Chumbi, and which was disbanded in October 1904. The bridge over the Rungeet River at Aker below Chakung has been reconstructed, and the existing roads and rest-bungalows maintained, but much more might have been done to the roads if labour had been obtainable. The number of scholars on the rolls of the Gangtok School at the close of the year was 57 against 37 in the previous year. Of these, 28 are Bhutias and Lepchas and 29 Paharias. The increase is probably due to the incentive to acquire the rudiments of education created by the demand during the Tibet Mission for intelligent interpreters with a knowledge of English, Tibetan and Hindi. Applications were also received to open schools at Lachen and Lachung and to improve the State School at Gangtok. Both the hospital at Gangtok and the dispensary at Chidam have done good work during the year. The inspection of the State forests by a Government Forest Officer, postponed from last year, has not yet been made. It is urged that it should now be undertaken, the forest area being demarcated and brought under reserve with a sufficient staff to supervise it.

BHUTAN.

Area, roughly, 20,000 square miles; population, no accurate information, but estimated at 400,000.

Bhutan.

3. Our relations with Bhutan were friendly. The Dharma Raja of Bhutan died in 1904. The office is in abeyance, as his reincarnation (reincarnation of the first Shabdung Rimpochi) does not appear on earth for three years. Meanwhile the Deb Raja as "Chole Tulku" (the incarnation of the voice of the first Shabdung Rimpochi) is hereditary guardian and representative of the Dharma Raja during the abeyance. This is the first instance of a Deb Raja acting in both capacities. The present Deb Raja is Nephum Yishi Gnodup. The Tongsa Penlop is Prime Minister and virtual ruler of Bhutan.

COOCH BEHAR.

Area, 1,307 square miles; chief products, rice, jute and tobacco; population, 566,974; revenue, Rs. 24,85,491; military force, 194 men and four field guns; present Maharaja, Nripendra Narain Bhup; family of Thibetan or Dravidian origin; residence, Cooch Behar; male heir, Maharaj Kumar Raj Rajendra Narain.

Cooch Behar.

4. The Council of the State held 48 sittings on its Judicial side against 21 of the year previous. Only three cases were pending before the Council at the close of the year. On its Legislative and Executive sides it held 40 meetings, the same number as last year. During the year under report Act II of 1904 (the Cooch Behar Village Chaukidari Amendment Act) was passed, and a Bill (No. III of 1904) to amend the Cooch Behar Stamp Act (I of 1903) was introduced.

5. The general condition of the people continues to be prosperous. From an agricultural point of view, however, the year was not entirely satisfactory. The heavy early rain in May and June and the scanty rainfall in the steeping season affected the outturn of jute. Tobacco, a very important and valuable crop in the State, suffered much from the heavy rains of September and October, which destroyed the early seedlings. Consequently there was delay in rearing new seedlings and transplanting them. The severe cold and frost also damaged the crop to a considerable extent. The rice crop, however, was quite up to the average, and the price of common rice fell as low as Re. 1-6 per maund in Mathabhanga. Cholera, small-pox and fever were reported from all the subdivisions, but all possible preventive measures are reported to have been taken. Considerable attention was paid to the clearing of jungle in and near the town of Cooch Behar, and to the maintenance of such a system of drainage as is at present possible. The State maintains nine dispensaries, seven of which can accommodate in-patients, the total number of whom amounted to 923. The number of outdoor patients increased from 29,157 last year to 34,698 during the year under report, the large increase being attributed to the prevalence of fever in an epidemic form throughout the State. The general and financial

condition of the Jenkins School continues satisfactory. The school has been completed at a total cost of Rs. 53,037. The new school building with the play-ground and gymnasium has removed the long-felt inconvenience under which this institution has laboured since the earthquake. It is one of the finest buildings in Cooch Behar, and is fully suited to the purpose. The number of pupils at the close of the year was 386, of whom only 98 were natives of Cooch Behar. Under the head of "Primary and Secondary Education" special attention was directed to the training of teachers of Higher English and middle class schools in drill, to the revision of the rules for the award of middle and primary scholarships on the lines adopted in Bengal with a view to train up a body of local men for teachership, and to a system of local competitive examination for Middle and Upper Primary schools for selecting candidates for the scholarship examinations with certificates for those who passed. The year was marked by an absence of heinous crime. Only two cases of murder were reported during the year—one ending in conviction, the accused in the other case being found to be of unsound mind. Not a single case of culpable homicide, robbery or dacoity was reported during the year. The admissions to the jail during the year numbered 341, of whom 8 were lunatics, 15 civil prisoners, 90 under-trials and 228 convicts. The health of the prisoners during the year was exceptionally good. The discipline was on the whole satisfactory. The expenditure on police amounted to Rs. 53,690, but the discipline of the force is still reported to be unsatisfactory. The actual expenditure of the Public Works Department amounted to Rs. 1,62,955. The expenditure on forests was Rs. 3,473, but, owing to the unsuitability of the soil, they are not doing well. Roadside arboriculture, however, has been much more successful, and deserves every encouragement. The total grant to the Communication Improvement Fund amounted to Rs. 52,608. There are 455¼ miles of banked and bridged roads against 429¾ of last year. The revenue of the State for the year was Rs. 24,85,491, and it is interesting to note that both collection and demand were the highest in the past six years. The net increase in the current demand of land revenue, amounting to Rs. 3,495, is due to resettlements. Under the head of "Stamps" there was an increase of Rs. 5,702, which is due to the amendment of the Cooch Behar Stamp Act. The chief cause of the increase in the revenue of the year, however, is to be found in the improvement in the collections from the Chaklaghat estates, which produced Rs. 39,669 more than in the preceding year, and in the receipts from the Cooch Behar State Railway, which showed an increase of Rs. 16,638.

HILL TIPPERA.

Area, 4,086 square miles; chief products, rice and cotton; population, 173,325; revenue from State, Rs. 7,68,206; military force, 382 infantry; present Raja, Radha Kishore Deb Barman Manikya; born, 1857; family, Indo-Chinese, but the Rajas have taken the status of the Kshetrya caste; residence, Agartala; has male heir.

General condition of the people.

6. The year was not a favourable one for all classes of people. The rainfall at the beginning of the year was unusually heavy, which seriously affected the *joom* cultivation in the hills and reduced the outturn of cotton and oil-seeds to about 60 per cent. of a normal crop. This particularly affected the condition of the hill people, who live chiefly by *jooming*. The price of uncleaned cotton rose from Rs. 2-8 to Rs. 10, and that of rice from Re. 1-8 to Rs. 3-8, per maund. The decrease in the revenue by Rs. 48,752 is mainly attributed to the failure of the cotton crop consequent upon the heavy and untimely fall of rain. Public health was good during the greater part of the year, though cholera was prevalent for a time in the winter season in Agartala and Dharmanagar. During the year 852 families immigrated into, and 406 families emigrated from, the State.

Police.

7. With a view to reorganise the State Police, it had been for some time under contemplation to secure the services of an experienced officer of the Bengal Police. This was done in December 1904, and the appointment on probation of a Bengal Police Inspector as Superintendent of the State Police has proved so satisfactory that the Government of Bengal has been requested to sanction his transfer to the Hill Tippera State under the Foreign Service Rules. The time spent by the divisional officers on tour is again reported as not being sufficient, except in the case of the officer at Sadar.

Jails. 8. The average daily population in the seven jails maintained by the State was 47. There were 58 prisoners and 8 under-trials in the several jails at the close of the year. The State maintains 10 dispensaries and hospitals. A

Medical. spacious building with accommodation for 40 beds for general patients and 10 for contagious cases was erected for the Victoria Memorial Hospital at Agartala, and opened by the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal during his visit in July 1904.

Education. For the Agartala High English School a suitable building at a cost of Rs. 40,000 was erected during the year. Education made fair progress. The number of scholars on the rolls of the various schools was 3,727, showing an increase of 672 on the previous year. The Kasipur Model Farm on the Dubda is doing good work, and about 100 bighas of land have been taken up for the concern. The main crops are mulberry, sugarcane, potato, aloes and rhea.

General. 9. One of the noticeable events of the year was the visit of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal in July 1904. It was the first visit of its kind to Agartala. A sad event occurred in December 1904—the death of the heir born to the Jubaraj Bahadur in the previous year.

TRIBUTARY AND POLITICAL STATES OF CHOTA NAGPUR.

Consisting of nine States—Bonai, Changbhakar, Gangpur, Jashpur, Kharsawan, Korea, Seraikela, Sirguja and Udaipur—varying in size from 6,089 square miles (Sirguja) to 153 square miles (Kharsawan). Total population, 1,001,429. The various States have no military force of their own, but the subordinate tenures are of a feudal nature.

Administration. 10. The States of Changbhakar, Jashpur, Korea, Seraikela and Sirguja were in charge of their respective Chiefs as in the previous year. The administration of the States of Udaipur, Bonai and Kharsawan, owing to the minority of their Chiefs, was carried on, under the Commissioner's supervision, by the Managers appointed by Government for the purpose. In Gangpur, the criminal and civil administration work was carried on through an officer of the Provincial Executive Service. One of the most important features in the administration of the Native States during the year under report was the deputation of a member of the Civil Service to tour through all the States, except Seraikela and Kharsawan, which are directly under the Deputy Commissioner of Singhbhum, to make a detailed report concerning the material condition of the people, the mode of administration obtaining in each State, and the relations existing between the Chiefs and their subjects. His report was submitted after the close of the year. A member of the Civil Service was also deputed to finish the settlement of the exterior boundary of the Udaipur State, and to see that the boundary line between Udaipur and Sirguja and Udaipur and Jashpur was properly demarcated and marked by masonry pillars. There were several other boundary disputes during the year; and, to prevent such disputes occurring in future, the Commissioner has recommended that the Chiefs should allow no cultivation within 15 feet of the outer boundary of their States, in order to preserve the boundary line and ensure its being easily recognized.

Revenue. 11. The total revenue from all sources for all the States amounted during the year to Rs. 8,70,282 as against Rs. 7,72,590 in the preceding year. This increase is shared by all the States, except Udaipur, where the decrease was mainly due to the cancellation of the lac lease during the year, on account of the oppressions committed by the lessee and his agents, and to the fact that in previous years the money value of grain received in the State granaries was included in these figures, whereas now it has been separately shown.

Public health and material condition of the people. 12. The health and material condition of the people were generally good throughout the Tributary and Political States of Chota Nagpur. Of all the States, the people in Gangpur are the best off materially. This is due partly to the opening out of the State by the railway, which enables the raiyats to get better prices for their crops. Jashpur ranks next in point of material prosperity, the Chief being a good and lenient ruler. In Udaipur, the *begari* system was being used oppressively, and the people were suffering from the exactions of the Forest Officers and the inability to get new lands suitable for rice cultivation. These grievances have now been remedied.

Weather and Crops. 13. The very heavy rainfall in June and July greatly damaged the *bhadoi* crops, while the insufficient rainfall in September and October affected the outturn of the winter rice crop, and the absence of any rainfall in November and December followed by comparatively heavy rain in the following months injured the *rabi* crops. In Bonai, the Manager reports that the average outturn of the

crops was 8 to 10 annas on the whole. This decrease in the outturn of the crops, however, gave rise to no scarcity, owing to the fact that the timber companies' demands for labour supplied the needs of the people. Generally speaking, food-grains are much cheaper in the Native States than in British districts, owing chiefly to the want of communications. The Commissioner reports that he found coarse rice selling at Patna, in Korea, at the rate of 42 seers to the rupee.

Police and Criminal Justice.

14. The strength of the police force throughout the States was 96 officers and 435 men, the expenditure being Rs. 45,421 compared with Rs. 43,445 last year. In addition to these salaried members of the force, there are village chaukidars and *goraits* who are remunerated in kind or hold grants of land. In Kharsawan, the system of paying rewards to chaukidars for regular attendance and meritorious work was introduced during the year under report. The variation in the number of cases instituted and in the number of persons brought to trial in all the States during the year, as compared with the previous year, was not very marked. The most prominent feature is the very large number of persons acquitted or discharged as compared with those convicted. The most glaring instance is in Seraikela, where 193 persons were convicted and 530 acquitted or discharged. The number of cases brought to trial was 2,693, while the number of persons brought to trial was 4,505, in all the States. There were 38 commitments to the Commissioner sitting as a Sessions Court. The fines imposed amounted to Rs. 8,555, of which Rs. 7,322-0-6 were realized. There were 54 criminal appeals instituted during the year, of which 40 were confirmed.

Civil Justice.

15. The total number of civil suits for disposal was 1,173 compared with 1,125 of the previous year, of which 976 were disposed of, leaving 197 pending at the close of the year. As in the preceding year, the civil case work in Seraikela was the heaviest with 302 cases, Kharsawan and Gangpur with 245 and 227, respectively, being the next heaviest. The ignorance and carelessness of the inhabitants of these States make them a ready prey for Kabuli and Peshwari traders, and the Chiefs and Managers now reject the claims of these latter when no detailed accounts are produced. There were 104 civil and revenue appeals instituted during the year, of which 71 were confirmed, 3 modified, 11 remanded and 12 reversed.

Jails.

16. There were 1,329 persons in all confined in the jails of the States during the year under review. The ratio of deaths per mille was only 4·5, as against 17·1 in the preceding year and 19·2 in 1902-1903. The low percentage of mortality is the more remarkable since the sanitary state of these jails is far inferior to those in British territory. Improvements which had been much needed were undertaken or provided for in most of the jails during the year.

Education.

17. The number of schools in the States rose to 105 and the number of scholars to 3,408, which shows a considerable advance, the average for the last three years being only 2,332. There were 1,346 aboriginal pupils, representing more than 30 different races. The total expenditure on education was Rs. 12,818, which was more than double the average of the preceding three years. The minor Chiefs of Udaipur and Kharsawan are continuing their studies at the Raj Kumar College in Raipur, Central Provinces. The Chief of Sirguja has expressed a wish to send his son-and-heir to the Raj Kumar College in the Punjab when he reaches the age of 12. The sons of the other Chiefs are being educated for the most part at institutions within the Chota Nagpur Division.

Medical.

18. All the States maintain dispensaries, with the exception of Korea and Changbhakar. The number of outdoor patients rose to 21,345, while indoor patients numbered 126. The total expenditure incurred was Rs. 10,385.

General.

19. The introduction of the Arms Act rules was sanctioned by Government during the year under report, and the rules have been sent to the Chiefs and Managers of the States for publication and adoption.

TRIBUTARY MAHALS OF ORISSA.

Consist of the seventeen States of Athgar, Athmallik, Baramba, Boad, Daspalla, Dhenkanal, Hindol, Keonjhur, Khandpara, Moharbhanj, Narsingpur, Nayagarh, Nilgiri, Pal Lahera, Ranpur, Talcher and Tigiria. Their area varies from 4,243 square miles (Moharbhanj) to 46 square miles (Tigiria). Total population, 1,947,802. All pay tribute. Most of them maintain militias, and a few have guns.

Administration.

20. No change occurred in the administration during the year under review. The States of Dhenkanal and Pal Lahera remained under Government

management, owing to the minority of their Chiefs. Narsingpur, whose Chief attained his majority in January 1904, was administrated by a Dewan appointed by Government. Nayagarh is similarly governed by a Government Agent as it has been since 1897, while Baramba remains under Government management just as during the Chief's minority, which expired in April 1901. The last named State is now out of debt, and a new settlement has virtually been completed, and the question of making it over to the young Chief under certain safeguards is under consideration.

Revenue and expenditure.

21. The total demand from the five States under Government management amounted to Rs. 8,05,254, and the collections to Rs. 7,31,124. Dhenkanal and Pal Lahera continue to show satisfactory results. In Narsingpur, the percentage of collection was 78 against 70 in the preceding year. The collections in Baramba are also satisfactory. With the exception of the States under Government management and Moharbhanj, the heaviest items of expenditure come under the heads "Administration" and "Domestic." The sums shown under "Public Works" principally represent expenditure on the Chief's Rajbari or temples or other private buildings, though a small portion is sometimes allotted to roads and communications. It is satisfactory, however, to see that every State devotes at least a portion of its income to education and dispensary charges, and these are generally on the increase. There was a further decrease in the number of deeds registered, although the amount of fees realised was somewhat larger. The value of stamps sold fell to Rs. 59,555 from Rs. 67,004 in the previous year. There was an increase in the number of Excise shops with a corresponding increase in revenue. Towards the close of the year, steps were taken to introduce the Contract Distillery System systematically in the States of Moharbhanj and Nilgiri, the Chiefs of which agreed to the proposal, and the system is now working in those States. There was an expenditure of Rs. 2,33,692 on public works during the year, but sufficient attention is not yet paid to the improvement of roads and the opening out of communications so necessary to the welfare of the States. The sums spent on public works of all kinds by Keonjhur, Khandpara and Ranpur were very small and quite inadequate to the needs of the States. During the year, the construction of the Moharbhanj State Light Railway was brought to completion, and declared open by His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal on December 2nd, 1904.

Police and Criminal Justice.

22. The strength of the police force showed an increase on that of the previous year, and the expenditure amounted to Rs. 1,12,049 as compared with Rs. 1,02,536 in 1903-1904. The conduct of the police cannot on the whole be said to have been satisfactory. There was a decrease in the number of cases under the Penal Code, and an increase in the number of cases under Special and Local laws. The results of trials were fairly satisfactory, 52·6 per cent. of the persons brought to trial being convicted. There was an increase in the amount of fines imposed and realized.

Civil Justice.

23. The total number of cases instituted shows a decrease which is perceptible chiefly in the States of Daspalla, Dhenkanal, Keonjhur, Moharbhanj, Nilgiri and Talcher.

Jails.

24. There was a further decrease in the number of admissions to jails, which fell to 1,617 from 2,006 in the previous year. The number of deaths and escapes also shows a marked and satisfactory decrease.

Education.

25. The number of schools continues to increase, standing now at 1,386 against 1,356 in the previous year. The number of pupils has also increased from 23,296 to 25,965, the increase being chiefly in Lower Primary schools. The number of aboriginal pupils, however, has decreased by 86. It is really only in Moharbhanj that any progress has been made in the education of the aborigines, the Sonthals supplying the largest number of pupils. The expenditure on education amounted to Rs. 1,31,402 against Rs. 1,19,902 last year.

Medical.

26. The number of dispensaries remained the same, but there was an increase of 8,068 in the number of patients, while the increase in expenditure was only slight. Successful vaccination operations show a marked increase in all the States without exception. The principal feature during the year was the appointment of an inspecting staff in the shape of Sub-Inspectors in all but three States to insure proper inspection.

27. On the whole the year was prosperous; the people were contented, and progress was made. The crop was an average one, and preceded by the bumper one of the year before it maintained them in a position of comfort and prosperity. The rainfall was very unevenly distributed, Pal Lahera for instance registering 84 inches, while Talcher, only 30 miles distant, registered but 52 inches. Public health was on the whole good during the year, being free from the appearance of epidemics of cholera and small-pox. Malarial fever was prevalent, but it was not more than usually malignant. Public health and material condition of the people.

Condition of the People.

[Report on the Land Revenue Administration of the Lower Provinces for 1904-1905.]

28. Compared with the previous year, the price of common rice was higher in 16, lower in 26, and stationary in 4 districts, viz., Darjeeling, Rangpur, Champaran and Singhbhum. In Calcutta, the price of wheat was considerably lower, while in Murshidabad and Dacca and in three districts of the Rajshahi Division the price was higher than in the year 1903-1904. A similar rise occurred in Saran, Muzaffarpur, Darbhanga, Singhbhum and Hooghly. The price of barley was higher in Faridpur, Burdwan, Murshidabad, Saran, Hooghly and the Sonthal Parganas. The price of this food-grain was specially low in Dacca. There was a fall in the price of gram in 18 districts and a rise in 24 others, chief of the latter being Midnapore, Faridpur, Calcutta, Jessore, Khulna, Champaran and the Sonthal Parganas. The price of maize increased in all the districts of the Chota Nagpur Division and declined in six districts of the Patna and Bhagalpur Divisions. Owing to the reduction in the duty on salt, its price was lower in all the districts of the Province, with the exception of Burdwan, Midnapore, Bhagalpur, Sonthal Parganas, Pabna, Puri, Angul and Manbhum. The rise in most of these districts was, however, not appreciable. Price of food and labour.

29. As in the previous year, wages remained stationary, except in a few localities. They rose in Birbhum and Bankura, owing to the opening of the railway line, and in Hooghly they showed a tendency to rise, in consequence of the demand for labour in mills and factories. The Thibet Mission caused an increase in wages in Darjeeling. In Dinajpur, skilled labour and ordinary coolies received higher wages than in 1903-1904, while the rate for the former was somewhat higher also in Deoghur, in the Sonthal Parganas. There was a slight increase in the wages of labourers in the Giridih subdivision, and an upward tendency throughout the districts of Hazaribagh and Ranchi. In Nadia, however, the daily wages of unskilled labourers fell from 5 annas to 4 annas. The Collector explains that the high wages in 1903-1904 were probably due to the great demand for labour on the Ranaghat-Murshidabad Railway. In the year under review, a steadier influx of labourers was obtained from other districts, and the work on the railway line is now nearing completion.

30. In Burdwan, the material condition of the people was not prosperous during the year, in consequence of the partial failure of staple crops. In Birbhum, however, it was satisfactory, as there was a greater demand for labour and there was a good harvest of paddy-straw, even where the paddy itself failed. Railway work provided for hundreds of labourers. In Bankura, the people are poor, and the agricultural population is heavily involved in debt. In Midnapore, the people were much better off, owing to the good outturn of winter rice. In the central part of the district, the opening of the large railway workshop at Kharagpore caused a great demand for labour of all kinds. In Hooghly, the condition of the lower classes in the towns continued satisfactory, and they found plenty of work in the mills and other industries on good wages. The people in the mufassal, too, are many of them well-to-do traders, and the *chikan* needlework provides lucrative employment to a large number of Musalmans, and a considerable number of persons are also employed in the manufacture of cotton and tassar cloth and in brick and tile making. A great many are employed as clerks in Calcutta. Public health and material condition of the people. Burdwan.

31. In the 24-Parganas, the condition of the people in the manufacturing centres was prosperous. The Collector notices a general tendency towards decline in the prosperity of the people of rural tracts near the manufacturing Presidency.

centres. He remarks that there is great difficulty in cultivating the high lands surrounding the villages, owing to the dearth of labour, and the result is the growth of dense jungles around village sites which seriously detract from the healthiness of the villages. In Nadia, winter crops were poor, but the yield of the *bhadoi* rice was satisfactory. The construction of the Ranaghat-Murshidabad Railway provided work for the labouring classes. In Murshidabad, the *bhadoi* crops were damaged by excessive rain, while the *aman* suffered from floods as well as from want of seasonable rain. Measures were taken to relieve distress by advances under the Agriculturists' Loans Act and by a grant from Babu Ram Lal Mukerjee's fund. In Jessore, the condition of the people was not satisfactory, though harvests were fairly good, there being an epidemic of cholera and malaria of a severe type. The new industry of curing tobacco started in the previous year was in a satisfactory condition. In Khulna, the condition of the agricultural classes was better than in the previous year. The rice crop was good and the yield of betel and cocoanut was also satisfactory.

Rajshahi. 32. In the Rajshahi Division, the condition of the labouring classes was good, and, in Darjeeling, high wages were enjoyed by the coolies and *dandiwallas*, owing to the demand for labour caused by the Thibet operations.

Dacca. 33. In the Dacca Division, there was no perceptible material change in the condition of the people, and the year was, on the whole, one of normal prosperity.

Chittagong. 34. The development of industries in the district of Tippera demanded skilled labour, such as blacksmiths, goldsmiths and carpenters. In Noakhali, the people are, as a rule, well off, and no pressure of population was felt in any part of the district, though diluvion of the *chur* lands leads almost every year to temporary distress in individual cases. The Victoria Memorial Industrial and Agricultural Exhibition brought to light certain industries, such as manufacture of cloths, cutlery and wood-work in Ramganj and mats in Feni. The opening of the railway has given a marked impetus to the cultivation of jute, the exportation of which is steadily increasing. The steamer service to Kutubdia and Cox's Bazar has established the position of both these places as sea-side health resorts. A heavy storm on the 23rd November 1904 caused a number of wrecks among the fishing fleet at Sonadia. On the 18th of March a tornado passed over Moheskhal, causing some damage to property and loss of life.

Patna. 35. In the Patna Division, the prevalence of plague entailed much suffering among all classes in the districts of Patna, Gaya, Shahabad and Saran, and to a lesser degree in Muzaffarpur and Darbhanga. Champaran, however, was practically free from plague and also from fever and cholera.

Bhagalpur. 36. In the Bhagalpur Division, in consequence of a very severe flood from the Ganges in August, there was great loss of *bhadoi* crops in Begusarai, but some compensation was found in the deposit of silt which was of great benefit to the *rabi* crop. The help which was given from Ram Lall Mukerjee's fund and by loans from Government enabled the people to tide over the calamity. In the Sonthal Parganas, the year was, on the whole, a hard one for the agriculturists. The activity in the lac trade brought much money into the district. The health of the Division was not good. Plague reappeared in Monghyr and Bhagalpur. Malarial fever raged throughout Purnea at the end of the rains and beginning of the cold weather.

Orissa. 37. The condition of the people in the Orissa Division was generally satisfactory. Although the outturn of the staple food-crops of the Division was below the normal, the loss was more than compensated by the surplus of food-stocks of the previous years, and prices ruled easier than during the year before, which itself saw lower prices than any year since 1898-99. The railway with a gradually developing system of feeder roads is coming steadily into greater favour as a means of transport, and the produce of the country is finding its way into large markets more quickly.

Chota Nagpur. 38. The people of the Chota Nagpur Division were, during the year under report, fairly prosperous. In Hazaribagh, there was no material change in the condition of the people, but the poorer classes, who live chiefly on *marua*, *makai* and other *bhadoi* crops, suffered to a certain extent from the bad outturn of those crops. Sufficient employment is, however, available in the

coal and mica mines and on the Gaya-Katras Railway line which is still under construction. In Ranchi and Manbhum, the condition of the people was generally good. In Manbhum, the railway construction works and lac industry gave employment to the labouring classes; the coal mines afforded work to 29,423 labourers. At Leslieganj, in Palamau, the yield of the crops was 62 per cent., though the rains were short. That so much was secured, is due entirely to the repair and extension of irrigation works. The passing of the Chota Nagpur Tenancy Amendment Act by prohibiting sales of agricultural holdings had a considerable effect in reducing the raiyat's borrowing powers. This is especially noticeable in Dhalbhum, where the professional money-lender is chiefly found.

CHAPTER II.—ADMINISTRATION OF THE LAND.

Realisation of the Revenue.

[Report on the Land Revenue Administration of the Lower Provinces for 1904-1905.]

39. An account of the year's demand, collections and balance of land revenue will be found under Chapter V—Revenue and Finance.

Collection of land revenue.

40. One of the most noticeable features of the year is the continued reduction in the balance of arrear demand, which now stands at a considerably lower figure than in any previous year of the quinquennium. The percentage of total arrear collections on total arrear demand in permanently-settled estates was 98·82, the highest for the preceding four years. Only in five districts did the collections fall short of 99 per cent. The percentage of total collections on current demand and of current collections on current demand, however, fell slightly short of those of the preceding three years.

Remissions.

In the remissions made there is a marked reduction, the figures being the lowest for the last five years. Remissions of grace were allowed mainly in the estates held direct by Government on account of death, desertion or poverty of raiyats, failure of crops, diluvion and deterioration of the soil. Considerably more than half the remissions under this head were made in the three districts of the 24-Parganas, Chittagong and Palamau. Remissions of right were chiefly due to diluvion, the release of lands to private zamindars and the acquisition of lands for public purposes. The nominal remissions were mainly deductions for erroneous assessment of lands, mistakes in accounts and non-settlement of relinquished holdings, and it is satisfactory to observe that by far the largest reduction is noted under this head.

Miscellaneous revenue.

41. The total receipts of miscellaneous revenue, including receipts from forest lands in Government estates, were more than double the amount of the previous year. This striking increase was due mainly to the recovery of survey and settlement charges. Other receipts were in the districts of Burdwan and the Sonthal Parganas. In the former, nearly the whole amount of more than half a lakh of rupees represented the charges for repairs to Government embankments realised from the Burdwan Raj; while, in the latter, the receipts (Rs. 66,108) were mainly on account of royalties on *sabai* grass and fees for fuel. The total outstanding balance amounted to Rs. 46,138, and consisted mostly of fines under Act XX of 1845 and of the survey and settlement charges.

Road and public works cesses.

42. Both cesses were, as in the preceding years, levied at the maximum rate of one anna in the rupee in the 43 districts in which the Act is in force. In the Sonthal Parganas, in which the Act is being gradually introduced, the valuation, for the first time, of some of the resettled estates was completed and given effect to from the beginning of the year 1905-06. The current demand of cesses, as in the previous year, shows a large increase of over a lakh and a half, mainly due to revaluations in various districts, of which Rangpur, Noakhali, Gaya, Rajshahi and Hazaribagh contributed the largest shares. It is satisfactory to note that the total collection on the net current demand was 100·4, against 99·2 of the preceding year. During the year under review, revaluation proceedings on an extensive scale were in progress in the districts of Burdwan, Birbhum, Bankura, Hooghly, Dinajpur, the regulation portion of Jalpaiguri, Rangpur, Bogra, Pabna, Dacca, Mymensingh, Faridpur, Tippera, Saran, Champaran, Muzaffarpur and Malda, of which the work in the regulation portion of Jalpaiguri, Rangpur, Bogra, Dacca, Tippera, Saran and Malda has been completed.

Redemption of land revenue.

43. Of the total number of 458 redemptions of land revenue allowed during the year, no less than 443 were contributed by the district of the 24-Parganas alone, and were apparently due to the wide circulation of the rules regarding redemption. In Chittagong, however, where the number of petty estates unredeemed is 13,544, the proprietors are still reported to be unwilling to redeem.

44. There has been a large increase in the number of revenue money-orders from 253,849 in the previous year to 369,870 in the year under review. The amount remitted, however, has only increased from Rs. 22,92,810 to Rs. 24,11,712. This large increase in the number of orders and the comparatively small increase in the total amount remitted show the increased popularity of small money-orders consequent on the reduction of fees for sums of Rs. 5 or less. The introduction, during the year, of separate forms of money-orders for land revenue and cesses has doubtless contributed to the increased number of orders issued. The percentage of refusals is very large in certain districts, particularly in Champaran and Malda, where it is as high as 73·3 per cent. and 56·4 per cent., respectively. The Board is requested to enquire into this wholesale refusal of money-orders by landlords in Champaran and to ascertain whether it is confined to a few estates or is general; and, if so, whether there is any special cause. Payment of rent by money-orders is now in force throughout Bengal except in the districts of Darjeeling, Cuttack, Balasore, Angul, the Sonthal Parganas and Chota Nagpur. In Puri the system is still not taken advantage of by the tenants; only 24 money-orders, covering Rs. 328, being issued during the year. In Chota Nagpur, though the system is not in force, rents remitted by money-orders are accepted in Government khas mahals, and the Board has been requested to consider and report whether the system might not now be introduced in the Chota Nagpur Division. **Remittances of land revenue by special money-orders.**

45. It is satisfactory to note that there were only 19 cases in which Commissioners found it necessary to refer to Government for the annulment of sales on the ground of hardship. The chief causes, which led to estates in various districts being brought to sale during the year, were disputes among co-sharers, wilful defaults, diluvion, difficulty in getting possession when estates had diluviated, but subsequently re-formed, insolvency of proprietors and annulment of encumbrances. The Sale Law was generally administered with due leniency and moderation. **Operation of the Sale Law.**

46. With regard to certificate work, the disposal of cases in the Province generally has been fairly satisfactory. A striking exception, however, is the 24-Parganas, where the number of cases pending for more than six months rose from 88 to 1,076; the percentage of disposals there being only 65·5, against 83·42 in the previous year. The Lieutenant-Governor is pleased to observe that the Board is of opinion that the working of section 21 of the Public Demands Recovery Act, which permits a judgment-debtor to redeem his property after sale by payment of the amount of the certificate with costs and of a penalty equal to one-tenth of the auction-price to the purchaser, has proved satisfactory. In various districts, auction-purchasers have shown themselves not unwilling to accept the return of their money with one-tenth of the purchase-money added as profit. **Certificate cases.**

47. The percentage of applications for land registration to the total number of interests in the registers for the whole Province was only 4·1 per cent. It should be possible to do much to improve land registration when better panchayats have been appointed in all districts. Wherever the panchayats have been already revised, District Magistrates should endeavour to obtain information from them of all changes in the holding of land not otherwise brought to notice. **Land registration.**

Surveys and Settlements.

[The information given in this Chapter for the larger Survey and Settlement operations, under the control of the Superintendent of Provincial Surveys and the Director of Land Records, is for the year ending 30th September 1904, and is taken from the Survey and Settlement Reports for the year 1st October 1903—30th September 1904. The information given for minor operations, not under the control of the Director of Land Records, is for the year ending 31st March 1905, and is taken from the Board's Land Revenue Administration Report for 1904-1905.]

MAJOR OPERATIONS.

48. During the year the work of the Survey and Settlement Departments in Bengal extended over portions of fifteen districts comprised in eight Divisions, exclusive of certain municipal and other minor areas, and of the Political States of Kharsawan and Seraikela in Chota Nagpur, the survey and settlement of which have been undertaken at the request of the Chiefs. **Work of the year.**

With a few trifling exceptions, the programme, which was large, was carried out completely. The traverse survey covered a total area of 5,028 square miles as against 6,884 square miles in the year 1902-03; but the area cadastrally surveyed (5,044·77 square miles) exceeded the previous year's outturn by 1,325·77 square miles, while an additional area of 463 square miles was surveyed topographically. Up to the close of the period covered by the present reports, a record-of-rights had been framed, under the supervision of the Director of Land Records, in respect of 35,231 square miles out of the 151,185 square miles which form the total area of British territory in the Province. The progress during the last 18 years has averaged 1,957 square miles *per annum;* but the area completed in the year 1903-04 amounted to 2,749 square miles, and the recent expansion of the unit of operations to be carried out by each Survey and Settlement party will result in yet more rapid progress in future.

49. The object of securing all possible economy without impairing the efficiency of the work was kept prominently in view. The cost rates of traverse survey, however, were slightly higher than in the previous year in all the larger operations, though, under the circumstances stated in the Survey Report, it is obvious that the rates could not well have been lower. As regards cadastral survey and initial record-writing, which are by far the most expensive items of survey work, the cost rates per square mile in Bhagalpur, Backergunge and Ranchi were, respectively, Rs. 82·7, Rs. 130, and Rs. 93·2 as against Rs. 132·5, Rs. 167·7 and Rs. 94 in the previous year. The reduction is stated to be due mainly to larger fields and the acquisition of experience by the staff. The rate of Rs. 101·5 for cadastral survey and initial record-writing in the district of Purnea is a very low rate, considering the fact that the district is very unhealthy; and it is satisfactory to note that the Managers of the Darbhanga and Banaili estates in this district gave ready assistance to the Survey Department in obtaining coolie labour, with regard to which considerable difficulty was experienced at the outset. The exceptionally low cost rate of cadastral survey and initial record-writing in Ranchi was due in a great measure to the fact that the people continued to supply labour free of charge. This is very satisfactory, inasmuch as, owing to the poverty of the country and the people, economy is of special importance in Chota Nagpur.

MINOR OPERATIONS.

50. Minor surveys by non-professional agency were conducted in connection with petty settlements throughout the Lower Provinces, the most important being in the districts of Midnapore, Hooghly, 24-Parganas, Nadia, Murshidabad, Jalpaiguri, Pabna, Mymensingh, Faridpur, Shahabad, Monghyr, Sonthal Parganas and Hazaribagh.

51. Progress was made in smaller settlements under the Bengal Tenancy Act under the supervision of the Commissioners of Divisions over an area of 123,900 acres in 276 villages within Government estates, containing more than 20,300 tenants. The total expenditure amounted to Rs. 25,949. The greater portion of the area under settlement lay in Mymensingh, Murshidabad and Pabna.

Land Records.

[Settlement Report, 1904-05.]

52. The returns furnished by the Inspector-General of Registration regarding the work done by the mutation offices at Bettiah, Hajipur and Mahnar are almost as disappointing as before. During the year under report the total number of mutations recorded by the three offices was 2,864, of which 930 were due to succession and 1,934 to transfers in other ways. In the preceding year there were 728 mutations on account of succession and 2,057 on account of sale. The total number of applications for mutation received in the three offices during the year was 1,048, against 916 of the previous year. The total receipts from fees, etc., amounted to Rs. 1,325-12 and the expenditure to Rs. 3,219-1 as compared with Rs. 1,086-4 and Rs. 3,291-1 respectively of the year 1902-03. The receipts of the Bettiah office amounted to only Rs. 19-10, against Rs. 17-14 of the preceding year, as compared with Rs. 572-12 and Rs. 733-6 of Hajipur and Mahnar, respectively,

while the cost of its maintenance is the largest of all, namely, Rs. 1,146-12 as against Rs. 1,127-10 and Rs. 944-11 of the Hajipur and Mahnar offices, respectively. The total number of mutations recorded this year in the Bettiah office amounted to 222, against 214 of 1902-03.

53. The general rules on the subject of the record of mutations in Government and wards' estates are contained in Appendix M of the Survey and Settlement Manual, 1900, and further instructions for securing greater efficiency in the work were given in Board's Circular No. 11 of April 1903. According to the criterion of efficiency adopted in the Board's Circular, the number of mutations recorded annually in an estate should not fall below 8 per cent. of its total number of tenancies, and it is gratifying to observe that in many of the districts concerned this standard of efficiency was attained and even exceeded during the year under review. In the Government estates of Midnapore, 24-Parganas, Darjeeling, Backergunge, Tippera, Gaya, Shahabad, Saran, Cuttack, Angul and Palamau, the number of mutations recorded during the year was above the standard laid down, and this remark applies also to the work in the large estates of the Tikari and Dakhin Shabazpur wards as well as to the petty wards' estates in Saran. Considerable progress is also noticeable in this direction in the Sheohar, Churamon and Narhan wards' estates as well as in the Noakhali Government estates, although the full standard was not reached in the year under report.

Waste Lands.

[Report of the Board of Revenue on the Land Revenue Administration Report for 1904-1905.]

54. The number of current leases granted under the rules of 1853 in the 24-Parganas and Khulna Sundarbans remained the same as in the previous year, viz., 115. The rent payable on account of these leases rose from Rs. 1,00,055 to Rs. 1,01,346. The maximum revenue which will be eventually realised from these leases according to the term stipulated is Rs. 1,10,607. The area comprised is 380,464 acres. No new cultivation leases were granted during the year to large or small capitalists. The number of new cultivation leases to large capitalists at the close of the year was 203, against 204 in the preceding year. The area comprised in these leases was 360,982 acres with an eventual maximum revenue of Rs. 2,13,734. The reclamation operations in Fraserganj in the 24-Parganas portion of the Sundarbans began on the 15th November 1904 and are still in progress. The area actually cleared was 2,611·20 acres, or 7,899 bighas. The expenditure incurred up to the close of the year amounted to Rs. 65,174-10-5, against an allotment of Rs. 58,050. The cost of the operations per bigha on the total expenditure is a little over Rs. 8. If, however, the value of the dead stock in hand be excluded, the cost per bigha on the total area cleared is nearly Rs. 6. Administration of the Sunderbans.

55. In Jalpaiguri 12,879 acres were leased for ordinary cultivation and 682 for tea, of which the eventual maximum revenue will be Rs. 6,537 and Rs. 511, respectively. The total areas leased up to the end of the year for ordinary cultivation and for tea, respectively, were 253,940 and 260,973 acres, with an ultimate revenue of Rs. 1,58,589 and Rs. 1,94,395. Jalpaiguri.

56. The Backergunge portion of the Sundarbans was transferred during the year from the jurisdiction of the Commissioner in the Sundarbans to that of the District Collector, and under Government orders a system of *raiyatwari* settlements will in future replace the leases to large and small capitalists. Draft rules are now under the consideration of Government. The survey of chur Mir Mahomed Ali, parts I and II, in the district of Noakhali was finished in December 1903, but the report on the subject was submitted to the local officers in June 1904. A *raiyatwari* settlement has been proposed for the tract. The proposal is under the consideration of the Board, as also the question of granting a special allotment for the reclamation of waste lands in the district. Backergunge

57. There were no applications for waste lands in the Sundarbans pending at the close of the year, and no sales of leases or issue of fresh leases were made during the year owing to the suspension, under the orders of Government, of the rules for settlement of waste lands with large capitalists. The number of settlements pending at the close of 1903-04 was increased by one during Settlements.

the year under report, making a total of 109 for disposal. Of these, 14 were struck off, leaving a balance of eight in the 24-Parganas and 87 in the Khulna portion of the Sundarbans. The total area surveyed by Mr. Sunder in these two districts was 16,469 acres. In this area record-writing and maps were completed within the year. Since the abolition of the Sundarbans Treasury on the 7th May 1903, Mr. Sunder has been allowed a permanent advance of Rs. 10,000, from which all expenses are met during the working season, whether they relate to survey, reclamation of waste lands or any other public purpose. Mr. Sunder was on tour for 204 days. During April to the end of June 1904 he was employed on settlement work, and attestation was carried out under his supervision. Between November and the end of March he was engaged on the reclamation of Fraserganj. It is reported that 24 families of raiyats have already settled there and have begun cultivation. A large number of settlers is expected as soon as further reclamation operations begin next cold weather.

Government Estates.

[Report on the Land Revenue Administration of the Lower Provinces for 1904-1905.]

Number and management of estates.

58. The total number of estates under direct management during the year was 3,368, of which 275 belong to private individuals, the remainder being the property of Government. The current demand of the private estates was Rs. 7,89,561, and of those belonging to Government Rs. 39,79,022. The percentage of the cost of management on the current demand was 7·33, against 7·1 in the preceding year. There has been no material change, either in the managing agency or in the mode of management, except as noted below.

In Midnapore, as reported last year, on the assumption of the direct management of the large estate Jalamutha on the 1st April 1903, a new scheme was formulated and sanctioned by which all the khas mahals in the Contai subdivision, as well as the Doro Circle of the Majnamutha estate in the Tamluk subdivision, were from the 1st January 1904 placed under the supervision and control of a Special Deputy Collector acting directly under the Collector. Of the four circles, viz., Contai, Kukrahati, Bhagwanpur and Birbandar, into which these estates have been divided, the last two were under kanungos and the second under a Sub-Deputy Collector during the early part of the year, but were subsequently placed under sub-managers. In January last two estate treasuries were opened in the last two circles. A tahsildar was stationed at Ghatal, but owing to the relinquishment of the Ghatal and Chetna embankment estates, his services were dispensed with. Until recently the Government estates in the district of Faridpur were managed by a Deputy Collector of the General Department in addition to his ordinary duties. Owing, however, to the estates being scattered all over the district and to an increase in their number and demand, it was not considered desirable to continue this arrangement. A Special Sub-Deputy Collector was accordingly placed in charge of all the estates under the orders of Government. On the transfer of the estate Saldha from the district of Dacca to Faridpur, a tahsildar and two peons were appointed, and the pay of the head clerk of the Sadar Khas Mahal Department was raised from Rs. 30 to Rs. 35.

Allotment and expenditure.

59. The amount placed at the disposal of the Board for the management and improvement of Government estates during the year 1904-05 was Rs. 5,52,580. Further allotments were also sanctioned, viz.—

(1) Rupees 5,000 for management and improvement of Government estates generally, (2) Rs. 2,000 for carrying out ordinary repairs to the Kutubdia Embankment in the district of Chittagong, (3) Rs. 8,758 for the construction of a retired line of embankment in mauza Khankhanabad in the Satkhania khas mahal in the same district, (4) Rs. 5,384 to meet the excess expenditure incurred on works of improvement in the Palamau Government estate.

Besides the above, a special grant of Rs. 34,440 was made for the improvement of the Rishra Basti in the district of Hooghly. The total expenditure incurred during the year was Rs. 31,539.

The distribution made by the Board in their Resolution dated the 21st July 1904 amounted to Rs. 5,26,432. The total sum assigned for works of improvement was Rs. 2,28,914.

60. The total sum unexpended under the heads "Miscellaneous improvements" and "Sanitary improvements" was Rs. 11,780, against Rs. 37,279 in 1903-04 and Rs. 11,960 in 1902-03. The largest unspent balances were in the Divisions of Bhagalpur (Rs. 9,722), Orissa (Rs. 683), Presidency (Rs. 645), Patna (Rs. 406), Chota Nagpur (Rs. 166) and Dacca (Rs. 122).

61. Out of the total expenditure of Rs. 2,17,552, Rs. 28,070 were spent on tanks and wells; Rs. 85,788 on drainage, irrigation and embankments; Rs. 11,932 on roads and bridges, and the rest on miscellaneous works, including tree-planting.

Condition of raiyats in Government Estates.

62. The condition of the raiyats in Burdwan was, on the whole, not satisfactory, owing to the damage caused by the excessive flood in July, but the suspension of the realization of the first two instalments of rent till the harvesting of the winter rice and spring crops afforded sufficient relief. In Birbhum it was better than last year, while in Hooghly it was generally good. In Bankura the tenants were unfortunate, as they suffered from a succession of bad harvests and the damage done to their holdings by the river Darkeswar. The early cessation of rainfall in the latter part of the season somewhat affected the outturn of the winter rice crop in the Sadar khas mahals in Midnapore. The raiyats of the Contai estates in the same district, except the water-logged tracts of the Contai and the Bhagwanpur Circles, had good crops and were generally prosperous. In the tracts referred to there has been a partial failure of crops owing to defective drainage. To remedy this, Government has sanctioned the clearance of silt from 10 khals in the Contai subdivision at a cost of Rs. 9,211, and the drainage of the tract near the Tajpur embankment at a cost of Rs. 11,751. These works are being executed under the supervision of the Public Works Department. The condition of the raiyats in the Tamluk khas mahals was generally good, while that of the Ghatal Government estates was fair. In the latter there was a partial failure of crops, and the raiyats suffered from a severe outbreak of malarial fever. In paragraph 61 of last year's report reference was made to an appeal by the Commissioner for the opening of dispensaries in two circles, viz., Bhagwanpur and Birbandar. The residents of the latter circle are willing to contribute Rs. 17-8 per mensem for the purpose and to provide a suitable building for a dispensary. But the residents of the Bhagwanpur Circle decline to make any contribution for the proposed dispensary in that circle, though they agree to provide suitable quarters for it.

63. The material condition of the khas mahal raiyats was generally satisfactory throughout the Presidency Division, but in certain areas crops suffered from untimely rain and from inundation of salt water. The khas mahal tenants in the Rajshahi Division were, on the whole, prosperous and escaped epidemic disease and other natural calamities, though the rainfall in the year under report was not altogether favourable. The condition of the tenants in the Dacca and Chittagong Divisions was generally good. Though the season was not so favourable in Tippera as in the preceding year, the short outturn of jute was compensated for by high prices, and the prosperity of the tenants does not seem to have been appreciably affected. In Noakhali good harvests were obtained, which, however, led to lower prices. In the Chittagong district the outturn of paddy crops was good, though the winter crop suffered to some extent from the unusually high flood in the Cox's Bazar subdivision in August 1904, and a cyclonic gale in the northern part of the district in November 1904. *Rabi* crops were seriously damaged by the heavy continuous rain in March last. It is stated that the people of the Cox's Bazar have hardly yet regained their former prosperity. In the Patna Division the condition of the tenants was, on the whole, satisfactory. The raiyats of some estates suffered from plague, and some damage was done to the crops by hail and frost. The condition of the khas mahal tenants in Bhagalpur and Purnea was good, while in Monghyr and Malda it was, on the whole, fair. The Ganges flood in August caused great hardship for a time in Monghyr, but prompt measures were taken and there was no loss of life in any Government estate. In the Sonthal Parganas both the *bhadoi* and winter crops were poor, but activity in the

lac trade and the abundant *mahua* crop gave considerable relief to the raiyats. The condition of the tenants of all the Government estates in the Orissa Division was generally prosperous, though, owing to insufficiency of rain in September and October, there was some loss of crops in Puri. The condition of the raiyats in Hazaribagh and Ranchi was generally good and prosperous, while in Palamau there was a marked improvement. It is reported that the Hos of the Kolhan Government estate in Singhbhum are in a very prosperous condition.

Wards' and Attached Estates.

[The Report of the Board of Revenue on the Wards' and Attached Estates in the Lower Provinces for the year 1904-1905.]

Number of estates under management and Payment of revenue.

64. In all 176 estates were under management during the year as against 154 in the previous year. The revenue and cesses due to Government were generally paid punctually, the total payments representing 96·3 per cent. of the demand as against 95·2 in the previous year. The total collections of rent and cesses due to estates have declined, being 96 per cent. on the current demand as against 101·2 of the year 1903-04.

Balances.

65. The total uncollected balance due to estates under management amounted to Rs. 70,83,361, or nearly 77 per cent. of the current demand of the estates as against Rs. 52,04,066, or 66·3 per cent., in the previous year. The balances in most of the estates have increased. In the Chittagong Division it is explained that they could not be reduced below 25 per cent. of the current demand owing to laxity on the part of the tahsil staff. The Collector of Chittagong has reported that if considerable improvement is not made in the current year, it will be necessary to make a change in the collecting agency. The number of certificates filed during the year showed a large increase as compared with the previous year. The increase is found largely in the Patna, Bhagalpur and Chota Nagpur Divisions. There was also a large increase in the number of rent suits filed during the year.

Reduction of debts.

66. Altogether Rs. 47,34,774 were paid in liquidation of debts as against Rs. 40,34,569 in the previous year. The balance at the close of the year amounted to Rs. 1,77,50,515 as against Rs. 1,68,24,599 at the close of the previous year.

Cost of management and expenditure on improvements.

67. The total cost of management was 10·6 per cent. of the current demand as against 9·8 in the previous year. The increase was shared by all the Divisions except Bhagalpur. Two lakhs and-a-half were spent on works of improvement, schools and dispensaries as against three lakhs and thirty thousand in the previous year.

Education of Wards.

68. The arrangements made for the education of the wards in the case of estates administered under Act IX (B.C.) of 1879, which are detailed in paragraph 21 of the Board's report, show that careful attention continues to be paid to this important subject. As regards the compulsory education of the children of encumbered proprietors in Chota Nagpur, the Board have under consideration certain amendments of the Chota Nagpur Encumbered Estates Act, VI of 1876. It is reported that the Deputy Commissioner of Hazaribagh is engaged on the preparation of a scheme for the proper education of such boys. The Board is desired to submit a report on the subject as soon as the scheme is ready for consideration and orders.

Revenue and Rent-paying Classes.

[Report on the Land Revenue Administration of the Lower Provinces for 1904-1905, and Divisional Annual Miscellaneous Reports for 1904-1905.]

Relations between landlords and tenants.

69. In the Burdwan Division the relations between landlords and tenants were on the whole good. Though in the districts of Birbhum and Bankura rack-renting continues, no serious case came to light. In Midnapore the disputes between the Midnapore Zamindari Company, formerly of Messrs. Watson & Co., and their tenants have been amicably settled.

The Commissioner of the Presidency Division reports that the relations between landlords and tenants were on the whole fairly satisfactory.

In some of the Sundarbans tracts, however, it is reported that petty landholders are in the habit of inducing tenants to take up land for reclamation on easy terms under invalid documents. Subsequently when the lands are brought well under cultivation they have endeavoured to oust these tenants in order to secure higher rents for the lands. In Jessore it appears that the majority of the big zamindars are absentees, with the result that their naibs, usually ill-paid, uneducated, and unscrupulous men, greatly oppress the tenants in a number of small ways. It is to be much regretted that, with a few notable exceptions, the landlords in the district take but small interest in the welfare of their tenants and spend little on local works of public utility and philanthropy.

In the Dacca Division the Commissioner reports that the relations, though generally peaceful, were nowhere cordial. The levy of abwabs or illegal cesses continues. The zamindars take little interest in the welfare of the raiyats and spend hardly any money in improving their condition or undertaking any work of public utility. They lose no opportunity of enhancing rents and evading the provisions of the Bengal Tenancy Act, which were enacted for the protection of the tenants.

In the Patna Division, it is reported that the relations were generally satisfactory, although there were exceptions. In the district of Patna there were some disturbances in the Barh subdivision. In the south of the Dinapur subdivision relations are said to have been very strained. In the Bihar subdivision there is still some friction due mainly to the maliks claiming their tenants' lands as *khudkhash*. The Collector is of opinion that a survey and record-of-rights are badly wanted in all these areas. In Shahabad there have been disputes between the Dumraon Raj and the raiyats, leading to the institution of many cases under sections 107 and 105 of the Criminal Procedure Code. The Collector of Darbhanga reports that on the whole the relations between landlords and tenants cannot be said to have been satisfactory, the reason being the refusal of the landlords to accept the settlement record in its entirety.

In the Orissa Division the relations continued to be satisfactory. In the Chota Nagpur Division, Ranchi is the only district where the relations continued very strained. The survey and record-of-rights proceedings which are now being carried out for the whole district will provide a basis for ensuring that the aborigines are not oppressed, but, it is reported, no effective maintenance by the raiyats of the rights recorded in the proceedings as theirs can be hoped for unless the number of subdivisions in the district is much increased. Some disturbance is also reported from Palamau and Singhbhum.

70. In the Orissa Division the total number of suits of all kinds instituted during the year showed an increase of 3,272, being 28,397, against 25,125 in the previous year. The number of suits instituted for recovery of arrears of rent also rose from 16,030 to 18,538. The increase was shared by all districts, and was chiefly due to the fact that owing to the enhancement of the revenue at the last settlement, the landlords cannot, with the smaller margin of profit left to themselves, afford to allow arrears to accumulate and that the settlement records make it easy for them to prove their claims in Court. In Cuttack the increase was specially marked in the Kendrapara and Bhingarpur estates, which were placed by the District Judge under the management of a common Manager. Owing to the previous mismanagement there were large arrears outstanding for the realization of which the Manager had to institute suits. The Bhingarpur estate also contributed in part to the increase in Puri, the rest of the increase in that district being chiefly due to better management of the Delang estate, formerly the property of the Raja of Puri, and to more vigorous action in the *jagir* mahals. In the Chota Nagpur Division the number of suits instituted for the recovery of arrears of rent declined from 6,285 to 5,949 in the year under report. The decrease was shared by the districts of Hazaribagh, Ranchi and Palamau, while there was an increase of 264 and 18 suits in Manbhum and Singhbhum districts respectively. As regards the decrease in Hazaribagh, the Deputy Commissioner explains that this was due to the limitation period expiring after the close of the year under report. In Ranchi it is ascribed to the same fact and to the difficulty experienced by the worst type of landlords in pressing their false claims. This difficulty is

Rent suits.

reported to be due to the awakening of the Courts to a knowledge of local customs and conditions and to the steady progress of the record-of-rights proceedings in the district. In Palamau the decrease was due to no suits being filed by the zamindar of Sonepura who has applied for protection under the Encumbered Estates Act, VI of 1876. The increase in Manbhum is noticeable only because there was a marked decrease in 1903-04. The increase is slight in Singhbhum and needs no explanation.

Working of the Bengal Tenancy Act.

71. The Bengal Tenancy Act governs the relations of landlord and tenant in the greater portion of the Province. It is partially in force in Orissa and the Sonthal Parganas, and for the purposes of a record-of-rights portions have been recently extended to the districts of the Chota Nagpur Division except Manbhum. The Commissioners generally agree that the Act continues to work smoothly, although its object is frustrated in many instances by the attempts of powerful zamindars to obtain illegal enhancements of rents in and out of Court, to levy *abwabs* abolished by law and to violate tenant rights in other ways.

CHAPTER III.—PROTECTION.

LIBRARY OF THE BOMBAY BRANCH OF THE ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY

Legislating Authority.

See—
GENERAL ADMINISTRATION REPORT FOR 1901-1902, PART II, PAGES 179—181.

Course of Legislation.

72. Three Acts were passed by the Bengal Council during the year 1904-05— Acts passed during 1904-1905.

Bengal Act I of 1905 (*The Sundarbans Act, 1905*).—This Act received the assent of the Governor-General on the 13th March 1905. It abolished the office of Commissioner in the Sundarbans, and transferred his functions to the Collectors of the districts in which that area is situated. Bengal Act I of 1905.

Bengal Act II of 1905 (*The Bengal Repealing Act, 1905*).—This Act received the assent of the Governor-General on the 13th March 1905, and has been brought into force from the 4th October 1905. It repeals the Bengal Contagious Diseases (Animals) Act, 1880, the retention of which is rendered unnecessary by the extension of the Glanders and Farcy Act, 1899 (XIII of 1899), to all areas in which the Act of 1880 was in force. Bengal Act II of 1905.

Bengal Act III of 1905 (*The Bengal Smoke-nuisances Act, 1905*).—This Act was passed by the Bengal Council on the 25th March 1905, and received the assent of the Governor-General on the 24th April 1905. The object of the Act is to secure the abatement of nuisances arising from the smoke of furnaces or fire-places in the town and suburbs of Calcutta and in Howrah, and power is taken to extend the Act to other areas in Bengal. The Act is based on recommendations made by Mr. Frederick Grover, A.M.I.C.E., who was sent to Calcutta by the Secretary of State for India to report on the question of smoke-nuisances. Bengal Act III of 1905.

73. Three Bills were pending before the Bengal Council during the year 1904-05. They are described in the Administration Report for 1903-04. Bills.

No action was taken by the Council in respect of the Excise Bill or the Local Self-Government Bill.

The Calcutta Port (Amendment) Bill, 1905, was introduced in Council on the 18th March 1905, and was passed on the 19th August 1905, and is now Bengal Act IV of 1905. The objects of the Act are to increase the number of the Calcutta Port Commissioners from 16 to 17, and to empower the Commissioners to build vessels for carrying passengers within the Port of Calcutta, and to charge fares for that service.

Police.

[The Report on the Administration of the Police Department for the year 1904; Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India, Section VII.]

74. There was during the year under review no change in the sanctioned strength of the superior staff of the police force. The subordinate staff was increased by 88 officers and men, of whom the majority were appointed for investigation work. Sub-Inspectors were recruited partly by examination and partly by promotion, but mainly by nomination; recruitment by examination has since been abolished. The new appointments were distributed among the Divisions in proportion to the strength of the investigating force entertained in each, the natives of each being regarded as having the first claim to the vacancies so allotted to it. Strength of force.

75. The course of instruction at the Training School at Bhagalpur was extended from 20 to 42 weeks, with the result that only 8 candidates out of 93 failed to pass the final examination, as against 45 out of 170 in the preceding year. Training of officers.

Discipline.

76. The marked decrease in the number of departmental punishments, which was the lowest recorded during the last 18 years, may be taken to indicate an improvement in the discipline of the police. There were, however, 277 members of the force convicted of offences under the Indian Penal Code. While fewer officers were punished under that Code than in 1903, the number of men convicted was excessive, being 1·2 per cent. of the entire force. The number of cases of torture instituted against the police showed a satisfactory decrease from 19 in 1903 to 5 in the year under report; and it is gratifying to learn that of these only one, which ended in a conviction for simple assault, was declared to be true. There were 83 charges of extortion, but of these 59 were either declared false or dismissed under section 203 of the Criminal Procedure Code, or ended in discharge or acquittal, while only 15 resulted in punishment, judicial or departmental.

Health of force.

77. The health of the force was hardly as good as in the preceding year, and the average detention of the sick in hospital was slightly longer. The figures indicate the necessity for improvement in hospital accommodation, and it will be interesting to observe the result of the scheme, which the Inspector-General proposes to introduce in the most unhealthy districts, of supplying mosquito nets and treating the men systematically with quinine.

Town Police.

78. The work of the town chaukidars and town constables continues to be unsatisfactory. The fact that only 229 arrests were reported from 32 districts as having been made by night watchmen shows how inefficient this part of the force is. The decision to replace town chaukidars by constables is amply justified; and it is hoped that the change will lead to better results in this branch of police work. The possibilities of improvement are indicated by the figures returned for Bhagalpur, where the number of A forms was almost doubled and the number of arrests rose from 9 to 26 during the six months in which the town police were under the Principal of the Training School. At the same time there are indications that good work can be done even with the present staff when the District Superintendent of Police himself takes an active personal interest in it.

The necessity for restricting the number of village chaukidars to actual requirements and the advisability of reducing and amalgamating charges when opportunity occurs have been emphasized in the Resolutions of the last two years; but nevertheless there was a further addition of 879 men to the village police during 1904. The necessity for scrutinizing strictly any proposal to add to the number of chaukidars has been impressed upon district officers. The systematic enquiries now being made seem to show that, so far from any increase being necessary, the number at present employed is in many cases susceptible of reduction. Mistakes have, no doubt, been made, the wrong class of men have in some cases been appointed, and the present Head of the Government is inclined to think that experienced chaukidars who have done good service might more often be promoted to the post of dafadar, provided that they are persons of sufficient influence to exercise a due control. The opinion, favoured by the Police Commission, that the menial classes are more amenable to order and ordinarily maintain better watch and ward than the higher castes is also endorsed; and it would be unwise to make any special effort to obtain recruits from the latter. It is satisfactory to observe that, while there was, owing to the discontinuance of the practice of granting rewards for regular attendance at parade, a decrease in the number of chaukidars rewarded, the amount expended on this account increased considerably, with the result that the average value of the rewards paid, which in 1903 was Rs. 3-8, rose last year to Rs. 5-8. This indicates a sounder system of apportionment, as rewards, when given at all, ought to be worth receiving. During the cold weather of 1904-05 a special officer was placed on deputation to enquire into the improvement of the village panchayat system. His report is under the consideration of the Government, and it is hoped that the reforms which he has suggested, and which have already been initiated in several districts, will lead to the selection of a better class of men to serve on panchayats, to a decided improvement in the village police organization, and to a more equitable incidence of the chaukidari tax.

River Police.

79. Much success is said to have attended the system of beats established along the embankments in the 24-Parganas and of patrol boats in Mymensingh

and Khulna. The system is at present in an experimental stage. An officer has been placed again this year on special duty in connection with this matter, and he will shortly submit a complete report to Government upon the scheme for the establishment of a separate River Police Force.

80. Among the improvements introduced during the year, it is satisfactory to note that the police have been relieved of responsibility for exercising surveillance over all wandering gangs, their duties in this connection being restricted to such gangs as are known or suspected to be criminal or oppressive; that closer relations have been established between the District Police and the Criminal Investigation Department; and that the office inspection work of District Superintendents has been reduced.

Statistics of crime.

81. The total number of cognizable offences reported during the year was 178,864. This shows a slight increase on the figures of 1903. Of the cases instituted before the police, which were sent up by them for trial, 86·8 per cent. ended in conviction; and in addition to these there were 2,670 cases in which Magistrates issued processes against accused persons not so sent up, the ratio of convictions to acquittals in these being approximately as 1 to 2. The percentage of convictions in sessions cases was 72·9, which is slightly higher than in the preceding year. The districts showing the worst results were Murshidabad, Faridpur, Puri and Manbhum. The falling off in Puri, where 94 per cent. of the persons sent up for trial were convicted in 1903 and only 28·8 per cent. in 1904, particularly demands notice.

False cases.

82. The number of cases declared false shows a decrease of 387. The percentage of prosecutions to false cases rose from 11·5 to 12·8, but that of convictions fell slightly from 41·2 to 40·8. The diversity in the results obtained in different districts is certainly extraordinary, and the best are far from re-assuring. Thus in the Sonthal Parganas there were 118 false cases, 22 prosecutions and 19 convictions; while for Chittagong the corresponding figures are 64, 1 and 0, respectively. The obstacles in the way of the successful and systematic treatment of this form of crime are, no doubt, considerable; for, apart from the inherent difficulty of proving a negative and the pitfalls of procedure, persons found to have been falsely charged are as a rule content to leave well alone rather than anxious to undergo the trouble and the expenditure of time and money necessary to secure the judicial punishment of the false informants against them. It is said that in such cases the matter is not infrequently settled out of Court, the suggestion being that the guilty party does not, therefore, altogether escape; but such a result cannot, in view of the fact that offences of the kind involved are all non-compoundable, be regarded with complaisance. The matter certainly calls for the earnest and sustained attention of District Officers, and the difficulties felt ought not to deter individual Magistrates from taking action whenever there are good grounds for believing that a false charge has been maliciously preferred. The falling off from 525 to 508 in the number of cases in which compensation was awarded under section 250 of the Criminal Procedure Code is somewhat discouraging, and it seems to the Leutenant-Governor that much more frequent use might be made of this useful provision.

Remands.

83. The number of remands granted in the trial of police cases was somewhat greater than in the preceding year. The percentage of cases disposed of in two hearings was 50 as against 51·2 in 1903. This slight falling off may be accounted for by the increase in the percentage of cases in which previous convictions were proved and adjournments were required for the purpose of procuring the necessary evidence, sometimes more or less formal. In some instances also, the excessive number of remands was undoubtedly due to the magistracy being overworked, as in Mymensingh, where the results were the worst in the whole province, only 28·1 per cent. of the cases being disposed of in two hearings. There was an improvement in the number of cases remanded six times and over; but the number—2,049—is still too large.

Diminution of riots.

84. An examination of the detailed figures regarding serious crime shows that the steady diminution of riots, which was remarked upon in last year's Resolution, has continued; and it is satisfactory to find that the number of true cases of rioting and unlawful assembly was—with one exception, which occurred in 1881—the smallest recorded since 1871. The decrease was fairly general, save as regards the Patna Division, in which there was a decided increase. As

in the previous year, the Dacca Division heads the list with 292 cases; preventive action under section 107 of the Criminal Procedure Code had also to be taken there to a much greater extent than in any other Division, the number of persons bound down being 62 per cent. of the total for the whole province. This is due to the character of the people; but there is a noticeable fall even in this Division as compared with recent years; and the marked suppression of rioting apparent in the district of Backergunge, especially as this is accompanied by a decrease in the number of proceedings taken under sections 106 and 107 of the Code, is very satisfactory. These results are attributed to the effect of the survey and settlement operations.

Offences against the person.

85. The number of serious offences against the person increased from 5,415 to 5,817. The number of murders, 418, was the highest recorded since 1897, the Dacca Division heading the list in this respect also, as well as in regard to cases of culpable homicide. Attention was directed in last year's Resolution to the increase in crime falling under the heads of dacoity, robbery and cattle theft; and it is very satisfactory to notice the improvement here shown during 1904. The number of dacoities fell from 342 to 293, the lowest figure returned since 1899; and the result is doubtless due to the successful prosecution of gang cases, for which the police deserve the greatest credit. The districts which suffered most were Midnapore and Purnea. The dacoities in the former were the work of the local bad characters, to control whom steps have been taken. In Purnea there is reason to believe that depredations from beyond the frontier were responsible for a considerable portion of the crime; and this impression receives support from the increase of dacoities on the frontier of Jalpaiguri. Robberies also decreased considerably in 1904, and reported cases of cattle theft fell from 2,258 to 1,949. Considering that this figure probably does not represent even approximately the number of cases which actually occurred, it is hoped that the special efforts which have undoubtedly been made to repress this form of crime will be maintained.

Burglaries.

86. A decrease is noticeable also in the number of burglaries. The returns relating to prosecutions for bad livelihood call for no remark, except that there seems to be some variation, not always corresponding with the incidence of offences against property, in the use made in different Divisions of section 110 of the Criminal Procedure Code.

Railway Police.

87. An increase is reported in the number of railway offences. Thefts on railways rose from 3,036 to 4,293; and there was, under the head of obstruction cases, an advance from 55 to 65, which is all the more unsatisfactory, as only 8 cases ended in conviction. Strong measures should be taken to repress this dangerous form of crime, and possibly more use might be made of the experiment of quartering additional police in cases in which the villagers fail to assist in the detection of the offenders.

Criminal Investigation Department.

88. The Criminal Investigation Department continues to do good work. The collation of statistics of the classes habitually addicted to crime in Bengal and the recording of histories of known criminals were taken up energetically and enquiries connected with coinage and forged currency notes are said to be in progress. The long list of gang cases which were under trial during the year and which were dealt with by the Department, and their results, are the best evidence of the utility of the Department. The cases alluded to led to the conviction of no less than 175 persons under sections 400 and 401 of the Indian Penal Code, besides several who were sentenced under other sections; and in the course of their investigation 164 dacoities, 4 robberies and 112 burglaries and thefts were traced.

[The information given in this paragraph is not taken from the Police Report, but from a separate report submitted to the Government of India.]

Mortality from wild beasts and snakes.

89. It is reported that 1,087 persons were killed by wild animals in 1904, as against 1,120 in 1903. The districts which showed the highest mortality were Hazaribagh, Khulna, Cuttack, Backergunge and Singhbhum. The number of deaths caused by elephants rose from 9 to 20, the increase occurring chiefly in the Terai. Three hundred and forty-two persons were killed by tigers as against 359 in the preceding year. In Gaya, where two man-eating tigers were destroyed, the mortality fell from 35 to 7. In the Sonthal Parganas, where 21 deaths occurred in 1903, none were reported last year. Two man-eating tigers were reported to be in Hazaribagh and a reward was offered for their

destruction, but without success. The increase of mortality in that district and also in Angul, Cuttack, and Khulna, which shows the greatest number of deaths (67), is noticeable. There was also a slight increase in Backergunge, and it is said that it is likely to continue as the Sundarbans are more and more opened up, notwithstanding the preventive measures which are being taken by the local officers. A considerable number of deaths are reported to have been caused by leopards in Ranchi and the Sonthal Parganas, where none were shown last year. Thirteen deaths were caused by hyenas in Bhagalpur, as against 2 in 1903, and there was also an increase in the number of cattle killed. In Hazaribagh 77 persons were killed by wolves, and the Deputy Commissioner reports that the rule regarding the production of the entire carcasses for rewards having been very strictly enforced, few wolves were destroyed. The number of persons who died from snake-bite was 10,052 as against 10,394 in 1903. The figures show little variation from those of last year, and the only remark that need be made is that the Patna Division, as usual, showed the highest mortality and Chittagong the lowest. As many as 23,506 head of cattle were killed by wild animals, as against 22,235 in the preceding year, the districts which returned the highest mortality being Palamau, Hazaribagh, Backergunge and Dinajpur. There was a striking increase in Backergunge, where the number rose from 949 to 1,992, the increase being attributed to the ravages of tigers and leopards, together with the extension of cultivation. There was also a large increase in Hazaribagh attributed to tigers and wolves. The number of cattle killed by snakes is, as before, insignificant. The figures relating to cattle cannot, however, be considered exact, and in many cases they have probably been largely underestimated.

Police Administration in the Town of Calcutta.

[Report on the Police Administration of the Town of Calcutta and its Suburbs for the year 1904.]

90. There were fewer departmental punishments by way of dismissal or otherwise during the year, and the number of members of the force convicted for offences by the Courts was 18 (1 officer and 17 men) as against 21 in 1903; but the convictions for extortion, causing grievous hurt and giving false information, although few are unsatisfactory incidents, and compare unfavourably with facts reported in the preceding year. The number of persons resigning rose from 302 to 321; but it is stated that the promulgation of the recent orders of the Government of India sanctioning an enhancement in the pay of constables has already had an appreciable effect in checking the submission of resignations. The percentage of sick in hospital *per diem* is returned at 2·6, as against 4·5 in 1903; but this is attributed to a tendency, deprecated by the Commissioner, to treat more cases as "out-patients," and the attention of the Medical Department will be drawn to the matter. **Discipline.**

91. The total number of cognizable cases reported shows an increase of 4,039, which, however, is less unsatisfactory than would appear at first sight. Nearly half of it is due to the addition of 1,935 cases of cruelty to animals, while 234 more cases under the Calcutta Port Act, 1880, 163 more cases under the Excise Law (principally in connection with the illicit sale of cocaine), and 162 more cases of vagrancy and loitering were dealt with. On the other hand, there was a decrease under the head of murder and graver offences against the person, and the only really unsatisfactory increase apparent is in respect of burglaries, which rose from 486 to 568, the increase occurring almost entirely in the suburbs. This clearly demands the special attention of the Commissioner. **Statistics of offences. Cognizable cases.**

92. The number of non-cognizable cases instituted shows practically no fluctuation, being 13,859 as compared with 13,669 in the preceding year. Nine thousand five hundred and fifteen of these ended in conviction, and only 187 were pending at the close of the year, as against 352 at the close of 1903 and 1,550 at the close of 1902, a remarkable improvement which may, no doubt, fairly be attributed to the efficiency of the recent rearrangement of work in the Presidency Police Courts. **Non-cognizable cases.**

93. The results before the Courts were good, the percentage of cases ending in conviction to the total number tried being 90, as compared with 80·22 in 1903. In the High Court there were 66 trials, and in 57 of these the prosecution was successful. As regards false cases, the report undoubtedly indicates **Results of cases.**

some improvement; for while there were fewer cases (113 compared with 167), there were more frequent prosecutions (36 against 20) and the number of convictions rose from 4 to 18. The conviction of four separate gangs of criminals engaged in dacoity and other heinous crime is a matter on which both the Bengal Police and the Calcutta Police, who worked successfully in combination, are to be congratulated; while the successful prosecution of 97 receivers of stolen property, and the proceedings taken against 253 bad characters and 57 vagrants, connote a distinct advance on the preceding year and indicate that more attention is being paid to professional crime. The number of old offenders reconvicted rose from 749 to 855; but the number convicted at sessions (79) is still far too low, regard being had to the circumstance that, of the total mentioned above 362 persons had been previously convicted more than thrice and 130 more than six times.

Missing children.

94. The figures given regarding missing children are interesting. It appears that 2,113 were lost during the year, and that of these 2,082 were recovered and restored to their parents or guardians by the police while 8 were sent to the Founding Hospital and 23 could not be traced. Among the last mentioned one was reported to have been wearing ornaments when last seen.

Juvenile offenders.

95. Only 14 juvenile offenders were sent to the Alipore Reformatory School during the year, as against 32 in 1903. A salutary increase from 16 to 38 is, however, reported in the number of persons dealt with under the provisions of section 562 of the Criminal Procedure Code, which were enacted in 1898 with the object of enabling a Court, if it thinks that, in view of the youth, character and antecedents of an offender, the trivial nature of the offence and any extenuating circumstances connected with the case, it is expedient to release him on probation, to do so on proper security being given and to avoid sentencing him to any punishment.

Identification by means of finger impressions.

96. The system of recording finger impressions for the purposes of indentification is said to have continued to show excellent results, 917 criminals having been recognised by this agency, as against 897 in 1903.

Motor Car and Cycle Act, 1903.

97. The Motor Car and Cycle Act of 1903 was brought into force during the year, and it is reported that the statutory rules under it have worked smoothly and that a large number of licenses has already been issued.

Criminal Justice.

[Report on the Administration of Criminal Justice in the Lower Provinces of Bengal for 1904; Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India, Section IV.]

General.

98. The area, subject to the administration of the High Court, and its local administrative Divisions, remained unchanged; but the number of subdivisions was increased by two by the opening of a subdivision at Balurghat in Dinajpur and the re-establishment of the Barrackpore Subdivision in the 24-Parganas. The figures of population are the same as those given in the report for 1903.

The Magisterial staff employed at the close of the year in the Province including the Presidency Town, consisted of 429 Stipendiary and 1,657 Honorary Magistrates. These figures represent a decrease of 12 and 44, respectively, on the numbers of the previous year. Two Special Magistrates appointed under section 14 of the Code of Criminal Procedure were employed on criminal work at Hatiya, in the district of Noakhali, and at Darjeeling, and decided 139 cases. Of the 429 Stipendiary Magistrates, 281 exercised first-class powers, 85 second, and 63 third.

There were 196 Benches of Magistrates constituted from among 1,572 Honorary Magistrates working during the year in the mufassal, one new Bench having been created in the district of Purnea. Of the total, 173 were independent, and 23 were restricted to the trial of cases under the Municipal Act.

Offences reported.

99. There were 312,840 criminal offences reported during the year, an increase of 9,381 on the figures of 1903. In 1903, there was an increase of 4,399 on the figures for 1902.

Of the total, 202,687 were under the Indian Penal Code and 110,153 under special and local laws. These totals are more by 1,490 and 7,891, respectively, than those of 1903. The increase was most marked in

Mymensingh, Nadia, Palamau, and Muzaffarpur; while there was a considerable decrease in Puri and Midnapore. In Palamau, the increase was mainly in cases under the Workman's Breach of Contract Act, XIII of 1859, the labouring classes who chiefly grow lac having preferred, owing to the favourable lac season, to pay advances given for work rather than to work them off.

False cases.

100. Including cases pending inquiry at the close of 1903, the number of cases found to be false, or in which complaints were dismissed during the year, was 64,292, or 20·5 per cent. of the number reported during the year. The percentage for 1903 was 19·8, for 1902, 19·6, and for 1901, 19·5. Of the total in 1904, complaints were dismissed in 53,311 cases, or 3,876 more than the figures for 1903. The number of cases declared to be false after trial or inquiry was slightly larger than in 1903.

True cases.

101. Of the total number of cases under inquiry during the year, 248,496 were found to be true, and, of these, 185,865 were brought to trial. Inquiries were pending at the close of the year in 13,403 cases. The number of cases found to be true and of cases brought to trial shows an increase over the figures of 1903 by 3,774 and 7,852, respectively.

ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

I.—Magistrates' Courts.

102. Of the total number of cases brought to trial, 35,648 were in the Courts of the Police and Municipal Magistrates in the Presidency Town, and 149,917 in the Courts of Magistrates in the Mufassal.

COURTS IN CALCUTTA.

Presidency Magistrates, Calcutta.

103. The number of cases brought before Presidency Magistrates, including the Municipal Magistrate, was larger by 3,469 than in 1903. The number of cases under Special and Local Laws was 31,199, or 4,476 more than in 1903; while cases under the Penal Code fell from 5,756 to 4,749. The increase under the former head is mainly due to the fact that there were more prosecutions under the Police Act, and the Act for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, by 3,657 and 1,323, respectively. As regards offences under the Penal Code there was a decrease of 928 in prosecutions for offences affecting public health, as against the increase reported in 1903.

Before Presidency Magistrates, other than the Municipal Magistrate, 27,003 cases were disposed of during the year, of which 24,936 were before Stipendiary Magistrates, 1,080 before Honorary Magistrates sitting singly, and 987 before Benches. In 1903, the same officers disposed of 24,318 cases, of which 18,402 were before Stipendiary Magistrates, 2,660 before Honorary Magistrates sitting singly, and 3,256 before Benches. There were 54 cases pending at the close of the year. Of the total number disposed of, 72 were committed to the High Court, and the remainder were finally decided by Magistrates, 2,999 being under ordinary, and the remainder under summary, procedure. The figures relating to the number of witnesses examined are omitted, as it has not been found practicable to obtain figures for last year sufficiently accurate to admit of their being incorporated in the present report. Instructions to remedy this are being issued. The addition to the staff of a Third Stipendiary Magistrate relieved the congestion of business and resulted in a comparatively speedy disposal of cases in the Courts of the Presidency Magistrates.

The number of cases brought before the Court of the Municipal Magistrate during the year was 8,984, of which 7,548 were cases under the Municipal Act. The number of cases disposed of was 8,972, of which 8,192 were decided under the summary procedure and 147 cases remained pending at the close of the year.

Results of trials.

104. The aggregate number of persons under trial before the Presidency Magistrates, other than the Municipal Magistrate, was 30,050. Of the persons tried, 2,202 were acquitted or discharged, 27,659 were convicted, two persons died, escaped or were transferred for trial to other Courts, 108 were committed to the Sessions, and 79 persons remained under trial at the close of the year. Of persons tried for offences under the Penal Code, 5,026 were convicted

and 1,708 acquitted or discharged. The results of the trials before each class of Magistrates during the year are shown below:—

	Acquitted or discharged.	Convicted.	Percentage of conviction.
Stipendiary Magistrates . . .	1,760	25,778	93·6
Benches of Magistrates . . .	219	823	78·9
Honorary Magistrates sitting singly .	223	1,058	82·5

Of the persons convicted, 1,223 were punished with rigorous imprisonment, the sentence in the case of 31 persons including terms of solitary confinement, 150 were punished with simple imprisonment, 25,215 with fine, and 286 with whipping. Forty-four of the persons sentenced to fine, and 50 of those sentenced to whipping, were so sentenced in addition to other punishments. Seven sentences of imprisonment were, in the case of youthful offenders, commuted to detention in a Reformatory School. Four hundred and eleven convicted persons were warned and discharged.

In addition to these sentences, 146 persons were required to furnish security for good behaviour, of whom 133 were imprisoned in default for terms not exceeding one year; 21 persons convicted of offences involving a breach of the peace were ordered to execute bonds to keep the peace; 67 persons were released on probation under section 562, Criminal Procedure Code; and various miscellaneous orders were passed under Special Laws in the case of 234 persons.

Before the Municipal Magistrate, 10,052 persons were under trial during the year, of whom 9,231 were convicted, 617 were acquitted or discharged, two persons died, escaped, or were transferred for trial to other Courts, and 202 persons remained under trial at the end of it. The number of witnesses examined was 2,912, which is 1,005 less than were examined in 1903. The percentage of conviction was 93·7. Of the persons convicted, 4,980 were punished with fines, and the rest were ordered to comply with the various requirements of the rules and bye-laws of the Corporation.

II.—MAGISTRATES OUTSIDE CALCUTTA.

Magistrates outside Calcutta.

105. At the opening of the year 4,314 cases were pending before Magistrates outside Calcutta. During the year 149,928 cases, including references under sections 347 and 349, Criminal Procedure Code, were brought to trial, and 149,484 were disposed of, 4,679 remaining pending at its close. Cases brought to trial were more than in 1903 by 4,369. In cases under the Indian Penal Code the increase was chiefly in offences affecting the human body and against property. There was also a marked increase in cases under Special and Local Laws. There was a slight decrease in cases relating to public health.

An increase in the number of cases instituted is reported from 26 and a decrease from 18 districts. The increase was marked in Mymensingh (777), Nadia (730), Muzaffarpur (719), Palamau (689), Howrah (662), Manbhum (613), and Midnapore (520). On the other hand, the decrease in the 18 districts referred to was greatest in the 24-Parganas (981), Puri (887), Pabna (465), Rangpur (397), Backergunge (323), and Ranchi (317).

The disposals were distributed as follows:—

	Tried regularly.	Tried summarily.
District Magistrates	1,768	270
Subordinate Stipendiary Magistrates ...	74,238	33,412
Honorary Magistrates	15,922	1,312
Benches of Magistrates	10,494	11,842
Special Magistrates	139	...

Of the 1,768 cases tried regularly by District Magistrates, 15 were decided by them under special powers under section 34 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. The attention of District Magistrates in the Chota Nagpur Division has been drawn to the desirability of their relieving the Sessions Court in certain cases by exercising the powers under section 34, Criminal Procedure Code, with which they are vested.

In addition to the cases shown above, District and Subdivisional Magistrates decided 87 cases referred to them under sections 347 and 349 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

The number of cases decided during the year exceed by 3,374 the number decided in 1903. This increase is distributed among all the classes of officers shown above, excepting Honorary Magistrates, who decided fewer cases in 1904 than in 1903.

Results of trials.

106. Of the total number of cases shown in paragraph 9 above, 1,811 were committed or referred to the Sessions and 147,673 were finally disposed of by Magistrates. In these latter, 209,967 persons were accused, this number being 659 in excess of that of 1903. Of the total, 121,287, or 97·7 per cent., were convicted, and 88,680, or 42·3 per cent., were acquitted or discharged. In 1903, 58·2 per cent. of the persons tried were convicted of; the persons tried for offences under the Indian Penal Code, 48,979, or 49·9 per cent., were convicted, and 70,848, or 59·1 per cent., were acquitted or discharged.

Exclusive of persons mentally incapable of taking their trial, the total number of persons awaiting trial before Magistrates at the close of 1904 was 8,209 as compared with 7,273 of 1903. The number of persons in custody at the close of the year was 680.

The general result of trials before Magistrates of each class was as follows:—

	Acquitted or discharged.	Convicted.	Percentage of convictions.
Benches of Magistrates	9,303	16,661	64·1
Subordinate Stipendiary Magistrates ...	67,647	90,538	57·2
Honorary Magistrates	9,864	12,401	55·6
Special Magistrates	130	78	37·5
District Magistrates	1,736	1,609	48·1

Of the persons shown as convicted above, the numbers tried summarily were, by Benches of Magistrates, 11,063; by Subordinate Stipendiary Magistrates, 36,653; by Honorary Magistrates, 1,077; and by District Magistrates, 333.

The mode of trial of the total number of persons convicted and the nature of the sentences passed were as follows:—

	Appealable sentence.	Non-appealable sentence.
On Regular trial	51,799	20,362
On Summary trial	9,442	39,684

Punishment.

107. The sentences passed on persons convicted were as follows:—

Transportation		1
Imprisonment ...	Rigorous	23,132
	Simple	921
Fine	With imprisonment ...	3,283
	Without imprisonment ...	83,580
Whipping	Sole punishment	1,466
	Additional punishment ...	808

A term of solitary confinement was included in 555 of the sentences of rigorous imprisonment, and, in the case of 48 youthful offenders, the sentence of imprisonment was commuted to detention in a Reformatory School. Three thousand and eight hundred persons were called upon to give security to be of good behaviour, 3,569 of whom were sentenced to terms of imprisonment not exceeding one year on failing to comply with the orders, and 294 persons were released on probation under section 562 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. Against persons who had previously been so released, proceedings were subsequently taken in 95 instances, and 141 persons were convicted and punished. In addition to substantive punishments, 9,060 persons were required to execute bonds to keep the peace, of whom 1,676 were convicted of offences involving a breach of the peace.

Of the sentences of imprisonment imposed, 4,855 were for terms not exceeding 15 days; 15,410 for terms not exceeding six months; 7,218 for terms not exceeding two years; and 91 for terms exceeding two years.

Sentences of whipping were slightly fewer in number than in the preceding year.

The fines imposed aggregated Rs. 6,91,179. During the year Rs. 6,23,051 were realised, and Rs. 68,869 paid as compensation to complainants out of the fines realised.

Miscellaneous Proceedings under the Code of Criminal Procedure.

108. In addition to criminal trials, the following were the more important classes of work dealt with by Magistrates in the mufassal during the year:—

There were 3,225 proceedings under Chapter VIII, Criminal Procedure Code, to prevent a breach of the peace, in which 14,513 persons were involved. The number of cases and the persons involved therein were considerably less than in 1903. Of the persons concerned, 7,384 were required to execute bonds to keep the peace, in addition to the persons mentioned in the preceding paragraph as having been similarly bound down on conviction. The number of persons dealt with under this chapter was largest in Backergunge (2,916), Faridpur (2,591), Mymensingh (1,163), and Khulna (1,025).

In 2,577 cases, 5,395 persons were called upon to show cause why they should not give security to be of good behaviour, and the orders were made absolute against 4,101 of them. Of the latter, 3,866 failed to give the required security and were imprisoned in default, 297 after reference to the Court of Session under section 123 of the Code, and 3,569 under orders of Magistrates for terms not exceeding one year.

Witnesses.

109. The number of witnesses examined in the Courts of Magistrates in the mufassal was 476,535 as compared with 476,974 in 1903. The number who attended and were discharged without examination was 161,036, or 25·2 per cent. of the whole number in attendance. In the two preceding years the percentages were 25·5 and 26·4, respectively. The amount paid to witnesses on account of the expenses of their attendance rose from Rs. 51,858 in 1903. to Rs. 52,671 in 1904.

Of the total number in attendance, 504,997 (79·3 per cent.) were discharged on the first day, 97,824 (15·3 per cent.) on the second, 25,116 (3·9 per cent.) on the third, and 9,634 (1·5 per cent.) after the third day. The number of witnesses detained for more than three days was 1,146 short of the number so detained in 1903. The result is satisfactory.

The districts in which the largest proportion of witnesses was detained for more than three days were Patna (5· per cent.), Dacca, Bankura, Tippera, where the proportions varied from 4·7 to 3·4 per cent., and Malda, 3· per cent. Explanations of these detentions have, as usual, been considered by the High Court, and orders have been passed on them.

COURTS OF SESSION.

Commitments.

110. The number of cases committed for trial or referred during the year was 1,811, or 4 more than in 1903; and the number of cases disposed of, including pending cases of the previous year, was 1,828, exceeding the number disposed of in 1903 by 54. There were 220 cases pending at the close of the year.

Commitments increased in Mymensingh from 86 to 159, in Midnapore from 66 to 111, in the Sonthal Parganas from 32 to 65, in Jessore from 40 to 55, in Hazaribagh from 7 to 22, in Muzaffarpur from 34 to 47, in Noakhali from 21 to 31, and in Malda from 16 to 26. On the other hand, they fell in Backergunge from 128 to 75, in Gaya from 63 to 38, in Howrah from 53 to 28, in Saran from 87 to 62, in Hooghly from 60 to 40, in Champaran from 41 to 22, in Burdwan from 43 to 28, and in Rangpur from 61 to 46. The number of commitments in Mymensingh was the largest in the province.

Results of Trials.

111. There were 4,372 persons, or 33 less than in 1903, under trial before Courts of Session during the year. The cases of 3,813 persons were decided, and 515 remained under trial at the close of the year. Of the 3,813 persons tried, 2,362, or 64·2 per cent., were convicted, and 1,313 were acquitted or discharged, and the cases of 138 persons were referred to the High Court under sections 307 and 374 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

Punishments.

112. The following sentences were passed by the Courts of Session during the year:—

Death ...	...	...	55
Transportation ...	For life ...	...	193
	For a term of years	...	206
Imprisonment ...	Rigorous ...	...	1,629
	Simple ...	...	14
Fine ...	...	...	74
Whipping ...	...	...	31

In the case of 37 out of the 1,629 persons sentenced to rigorous imprisonment, the sentences included terms of solitary confinement; and in the case of four youthful offenders, sentences of imprisonment were commuted to detention in a Reformatory School. Additional punishments were inflicted upon 63 of the persons sentenced to fine, and on 27 of those sentenced to whipping. Besides the above, 297 persons were sentenced to rigorous or simple imprisonment (18 for terms not exceeding one year and 279 for terms between one year and three years) on failure to furnish security for good behaviour, and one person, who had been convicted of an offence involving a breach of the peace, was required to execute a bond with sureties to keep the peace in addition to his substantive punishment.

Sentences of imprisonment were passed for the following terms:—

Not exceeding	15 days	13
	6 months	156
	2 years	439
	7 years	1,224
Exceeding 7 years		104

Fines to the amount of Rs. 5,295 were imposed by Courts of Session, as compared with Rs. 18,660 imposed in the preceding year. The total realizations of the year aggregated Rs. 4,301, as compared with Rs. 4,307 in 1903. The amount of fines realized and paid as compensation to complainants was Rs. 348 in 1904, as compared with Rs. 1,150 in 1903.

Jury Trials.

113. The number of persons tried by Jury during 1904 was 1,063; and of the persons so tried, the Sessions Judge approved of the verdict of the Jury in respect of 876 persons, and disapproved of it in respect of 187. In the case of 83 persons, the Sessions Judge disagreed with the verdict so completely as to consider it necessary for the ends of justice to make a reference to the High Court under section 307 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

Trials by Assessors.

114. The number of persons tried with the aid of Assessors during the year under review was 2,164, with the result that, in the case of 1,629 persons the Sessions Judge concurred with the opinion of both the Assessors, in the case of 209 he differed from the opinion of one, and in the case of 326 he differed from the opinion of both the Assessors. The corresponding figures for 1903 were 2,298, 1,595, 250, and 453, respectively.

Duration of cases.

115. The average duration of Sessions trials from the date of commitment to the date of decision was 39 days, as compared with 44·1 days in 1903 and 51 days in 1902. The further reduction in the average period of the duration of Sessions trials is satisfactory. Much attention is paid to this matter by the Court, and all cases of unusual duration are carefully scrutinized with the object of ascertaining if the prisoners were unnecessarily detailed under trial. The duration of cases was notably high in the districts of Faridpur (79·5 days) and Jessore (67·5 days).

Witnesses.

116. The number of witnesses in attendance before the Courts of Session was 26,839. Of these, 16,935 were examined, and 9,904 discharged without examination. In 1903, the corresponding figures were 18,098 and 9,914, respectively.

Of the total number in attendance, 13,747 (51·2 per cent.) were discharged on the first day, 7,975 (29·8 per cent.) on the second day, 3,069 (11·4 per cent.) on the third day, and 2,048 (7·6 per cent.) after the third day. The results show that witnesses have been detailed for a perceptibly shorter period than in 1903. Due notice has been taken of the long detention of witnesses by the High Court in reviewing the district reports. The amount paid to witnesses on account of the expenses incurred by them in attending Sessions trials was Rs. 36,614, as compared with Rs. 37,368 in 1903.

Commitments to the High Court.

117. Including 8 cases pending at the opening of the year, 82 cases came before the High Court for trial. Of these, 68 were tried during the year and 14 remained undecided at its close.

Altogether 102 persons (inclusive of a European British subject whose case came before the Court under section 526, Code of Criminal Procedure) were tried, of whom 71 were convicted and 31 acquitted. The number of witnesses examined was 626, and the average duration of cases from commitment 36·7 days.

APPELLATE JURISDICTION.

High Court.

Appeals.

118. At the opening of 1904, there were 104 appeals pending before the High Court from sentences or orders of Criminal Courts. During the year, 1,094 appeals were preferred and 1,099 decided, leaving 98 pending at its close. One appeal abated on the death of the appellant. The number preferred and decided were more than in 1903 by 102 and 131, respectively, and the pending *finse* 6 less.

Of the appeals against sentences preferred during the year, 850 were from Courts of Session, 220 were from Presidency Magistrates, and 9 from Deputy Commissioners exercising special powers under section 34 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. Fifteen appeals were preferred by the Local Government against orders of acquittal.

Results of Appeals.

119. There were 872 appeals against sentences of Courts of Session decided during the year. The orders of the Lower Courts were upheld in 727 instances, reversed in 37, and modified in 106. Two cases were remanded for re-trial.

The results of the appeals decided during the year, as affecting individuals, were that the appeals of 1,282 persons were summarily dismissed under section 421 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, and that, in admitted appeals, sentences on 279 appellants were confirmed, on 10 enhanced, on 267 reduced or altered, and on 88 annulled. In the cases of 5, a new trial or further inquiry was ordered.

Sixteen appeals by the Local Government against orders of acquittal were decided during the year. In four cases the order was upheld, in six it was reversed, in one it was modified, and five cases were directed to be retried.

APPELLATE COURTS SUBORDINATE TO THE HIGH COURT.

Sessions Courts.

120. There were 187 appeals pending before the Courts of Session at the opening of the year. During the year 5,818 appeals were preferred and 5,808 decided, leaving pending at the close of the year 179. Eighteen appeals were either transferred to other districts for hearing, or abated on the death of the appellants. The number of appeals preferred to Sessions Judges was less by 380 than in 1903.

In the appeals decided by Sessions Judges during 1904, 9,396 persons were concerned. The appeals of 3,005 of these, or 31·9 per cent., were summarily dismissed; 3,168 appellants, whose appeals were admitted, were altogether unsuccessful; 1,212 obtained a reduction or alteration of sentence; and 1,919 were acquitted; in the case of 91 appellants, a new trial or further enquiry was ordered; and the case of one appellant was referred to the High Court for orders.

The proportion of persons whose appeals were wholly unsuccessful, successful in obtaining a modification of the original orders, and successful in obtaining their reversal, was 65·6, 12·8, and 20·4, respectively. Of those concerned in admitted appeals only, the same proportions were 49·5, 18·9, and 30· per cent. Taking into account admitted appeals only, these results were more favourable to appellants than those of the previous two years.

Magistrates' Courts.

121. In the Courts of Magistrates there were 204 appeals pending at the opening of the year. During the year 5,115 appeals were preferred and 5,121 decided, leaving 192 pending at its close. Six appeals were either transferred to other districts for hearing, or abated on the death of the appellants. The number preferred was larger than in 1903 by 170.

The number of persons whose appeals were decided by Courts of Magistrates was 8,398. Of these, the appeals of 1,740 were summarily dismissed, and the sentences on 3,927, whose appeals were admitted, were confirmed, making a total of 5,667 wholly unsuccessful appellants, or 67·4 per cent. Of the remainder, 853 appellants, or 10·1 per cent., obtained a modification of the sentences passed on them, and 1,798, or 21·4 per cent., their total annulment. In the case of 79 appellants, a new trial or further inquiry was ordered, and one case was referred to the High Court. These results are slightly less favourable to appellants than those of the previous year.

SUPERINTENDENCE, REFERENCE AND REVISION.

High Court.

References under section 307, C. P. C.

122. Six references under section 307 of the Code of Criminal Procedure from verdicts of Juries were pending in the High Court at the opening of the year, and 49 were made during the year. Forty-six of these references were decided during the year, 9 remaining undecided at the close of it. The result of the 46 cases disposed of was that the verdict of the Jury was accepted in 8 cases, set aside in 31, and modified in 6. One case was remanded for re-trial.

References under section 374, C. P. C.

123. Forty-two references under section 374 of the Code of Criminal Procedure for confirmation of death sentences were made to the High Court during 1904, and 10 were pending before the Court at the opening of the year. Forty-four were decided during the year, leaving 8 pending at its close. In the references decided, 59 persons were concerned. Of these, the death sentence on 35 was confirmed, and in the case of 14 their sentence was commuted to transportation for life. In the case of two persons, the accused having been convicted by the High Court of minor offences, a sentence of ten and two years' rigorous imprisonment, respectively, was substituted, and the remaining 8 persons were acquitted.

Revision.

124. During the year 279 cases were reported for the orders of the High Court by Sessions Judges and District Magistrates under section 438 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, and 25 were pending at the opening of the year. Of these, 286 were decided and 18 remained pending. The number reported was 21 more than in 1903. In 124 cases, the orders sent up for revision were set aside or the proceedings quashed, and in 48 a new trial was ordered. Sentences were reduced or altered in 25 cases and enhanced in 12. In the remaining 77 cases the High Court declined to interfere.

Under section 435 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, orders were passed in 1,278 cases, an increase of 255 on the figures of the previous year. Of these 1,248 came before the High Court on applications made to it, and 30 were taken up on review of the periodical Sessions statements submitted by Sessions Judges.

Of the applications for the issue of rules, 681 were rejected. Of 567 rules issued, 143 were finally discharged; 219 were made absolute in their entirety; the orders complained of were modified in 99 cases, and enhanced in one; in 92 cases a new trial was ordered; and in 13 cases, orders for transfer to other courts for trial were passed.

Applications for transfer.

125. Twelve applications under section 526 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, for the transfer of cases from one court or district to another, were on the files at the opening of the year, and 105 were made during the year. Of these, 113 were dealt with during the year, and 4 remained pending at its close. Of the 113 dealt with, 27 were summarily rejected, and in 7 cases transfers were granted without issue of a rule. In 79 cases rules were issued, with the result that transfers were granted in 64, and refused in 15 cases.

II.—COURTS SUBORDINATE TO THE HIGH COURT.

Sessions Courts.

126. Including accused persons who themselves applied for revision of the orders passed on them in the Courts of Magistrates, and accused persons against whom such applications were made by complainants, the cases of 8,525 persons were decided on revision by Courts of Session during the year. The number was larger than in 1903 by 1,087. The applications of 3,417 persons were rejected, and as regards 1,629, the orders of the Lower Court were confirmed. Orders passed in the cases of 119 persons were reversed; in 23 instances proceedings were quashed; and the order of the Lower Court was modified in the case of 5 persons. In the cases of 2,823 persons new trials or further inquiries were directed, and the cases of 509 persons were referred to the High Court.

Magistrates' Courts.

127. The cases of 3,878 accused persons who applied for revision, or against whom applications were made by complainants, came before District Magistrates for revision. The total number was smaller by 373 than in 1903. Of the total, the applications of 1,526 persons were rejected, and in the cases of 843, the original sentence or order was upheld. Sentences or orders

affecting 50 persons were modified and those affecting 256 were reversed. In the cases of 91 persons, proceedings were quashed, and in those of 1,072, new trials or further inquiries were directed. The cases of 40 persons were referred to the High Court.

GENERAL.

Trials of European British subjects.

128. Seventy-five cases in all courts were brought against European British subjects during the year. The number exceeds that of 1903 by one. Three cases were pending at the opening of the year and at its close; 75 having been disposed of during the year. Of those pending, two were cases in which the accused have, for long, been insane and incapable of making a defence. Of the cases disposed of, 72 were tried by Magistrates, 1 by a Sessions Judge, and the rest by the High Court.

The number of persons concerned in these cases was 84. Of these 5 claimed a mixed Jury. The two persons whose cases came before the High Court in its Original Jurisdiction were charged respectively with an attempt to murder, and with accepting an illegal gratification being a public servant and other kindred charges. Both were acquitted. In the case tried by a Sessions Judge, two persons were convicted of an offence under the Telegraphs Act, XIII of 1885.

The cases of 80 persons were finally disposed of by Magistrates; and of these, 49 were convicted and 31 acquitted. The convictions were in 11 cases for offences under special and local laws, in 11 cases for theft, in 7 cases for offences affecting the public health, etc., and in 5 cases for hurt. The largest number of European British subjects were tried in Darjeeling (40), 24-Paraganas (12), Howrah (7), and Patna (6).

Receipts and Charges.

129. Debiting, as usual, to the Administration of Criminal Justice a portion of the salaries of Judicial officers fixed by the time which their returns show them to have devoted to it, the total charges for the year amounted to Rs. 29,99,114. Of this amount, Rs. 18,50,748 were for the salaries of Judicial officers; Rs. 1,45,284 for fixed and temporary copying establishments; Rs. 95,457 for process-servers; Rs. 4,92,123 for other establishments; and Rs. 4,15,502 for contingencies and refunds.

The receipts amounted to Rs. 16,36,368. Of this amount, Rs. 7,26,479 were under fines; Rs. 2,12,374 under process fees; Rs. 1,77,419 under copying and comparing fees; Rs. 4,06,941 under court-fee stamp receipts other than the above; and Rs. 1,13,155 were miscellaneous receipts. The receipts exceed those of 1903 by over sixty-five thousand; while the charges fell by over ninety thousand.

Criminal Justice in the Sonthal Parganas, Angul and the Chittagong Hill Tracts.

130. The number of cases brought to trial in the scheduled districts of the Sonthal Parganas, Angul (including Khondmals), and the Chittagong Hill Tracts was 6,907. The total number of persons under trial including those remaining from the previous year was 11,558. Of these, 4,837 were acquitted or discharged, and 6,260 convicted. Of the cases brought to trial, 953 were under "theft," 928 under "Criminal force and assault," 736 under "Criminal trespass," and 2,411 under "offences under special and local laws." The total number of appellants and applicants for revision was 694. Of these, 142 were wholly or partly successful in their applications.

Jails.

[The Report on the Administration of the Jail Department for the year 1904; Judicial and Administration Statistics of British India, Section V.]

Jail population.

131. The total number of persons in prison during the year was 116,988, as against 120,691 in 1903, but the daily average population rose slightly from 19,558 to 19,996. There were 1,929 under-trial prisoners at the beginning of the year and 1,705 at its close, the daily average being 1,937 as compared with 2,025 for the previous year. Of civil prisoners 668 were admitted, as against 689 in 1903, and there were no fresh admissions of State prisoners.

Mortality.

132. The most striking feature brought out by the report is that the death-rate, calculated on the daily average convict population, was 20·2 *per mille*, the lowest on record; and this is all the more satisfactory when it is demonstrated

that the figure cannot be attributed to merely exceptional circumstances, but indicates the continuance of the steady improvement which has taken place in this respect during the last thirty years. The statistics compiled by the Inspector-General show that the rate recorded for the years 1875—1879, taken together, was 65·8, that it has fallen gradually during each subsequent quinquennium, and that it stands at 27·9 for the latest quinquennial period, during the last three years of which it has been returned at 25·6, 23·6 and 20·2, respectively. The decline under the different heads of disease is also apparent, and it is interesting to observe that the mortality from malarial fever, for example, was only 1·2 *per mille* in 1904, as compared with 5·1 during the years 1875—1879. As regards individual jails, the rate exceeded 40 *per mille* in the case of Balasore alone. Every attention appears, as a rule, to be paid to sanitation, and in particular much has been done to improve the water-supply. It is noticed with satisfaction that, in spite of plague having been epidemic in the neighbourhood of many jails, only one was actually attacked. That was the prison at Chapra, which is said to be very badly situated in the heart of the town. Since the appearance of the epidemic in Bengal, indeed, only 50 cases have occurred in prison, and only 7 jails and 2 subsidiary jails have been attacked.

Diet.

133. The Inspector-General's recommendations on the subject of diet were received and accepted in the course of the year; and a number of important changes have now been introduced. The most important of these consist in the allowance of a ration of fish in all prisons in Bengal, where fish is the staple food of the population; an increase in the provision of oil and salt; and the extension to Superintendents of a wider discretion in the matter of altering the diet in accordance with local requirements, and providing special diets in the case of jails largely peopled by prisoners drawn from the aboriginal tribes.

Jail accommodation.

134. The figures furnished show a reduction in the prison accommodation available; but it is explained that this is really due to the fact that workshops, verandahs, and so forth have—very properly—been excluded, and that the calculations formerly made have been carefully revised and, where necessary, corrected. Notwithstanding the transfer of prisoners from crowded jails to others with room to spare, there appears to have been overcrowding in 21 prisons; and it is admitted that in the case of 16 the accommodation in the under-trial wards was insufficient for the average daily requirements. These defects are, however, engaging attention; and it may here be noted that the amount expended on jail buildings during the year was Rs. 7,52,245 (Rs. 6,86,346 on original works and the balance on repairs), a sum more than double that spent in 1903. Cell accommodation for prisoners separately confined, whether by order of a Court or by way of prison discipline, is evidently insufficient, and compares very unfavourably with that provided in other Provinces; but plans and estimates for extra cells have been prepared, and the necessary additions will, it is hoped, be made without delay. The Lieutenant-Governor visited many of the central and district prisons with the Inspector-General, who has carried out numerous important improvements during the year.

Warder service.

135. There were somewhat fewer punishments inflicted upon warders in the course of the year, and the number of resignations fell from 121 to 85; but there is apparently still considerable dissatisfaction among the staff, and the Inspector-General's proposals for the improvement in respect of their pay, pension and leave rules are awaited by the Local Government. There were only 6 escapes of prisoners during the year, and in each instance the officers responsible were prosecuted and punished.

Prison offences.

136. The total number of offences committed by convicts fell from 31,828 to 30,928, and the percentage of punishments to the average number of convicts from 182·92 to 172·66. Fetters were imposed in 5,147 cases (in 248 for safe custody and in 4,899 as a punishment), the corresponding figures for 1903 being 4,966, 178, and 4,788, respectively. Although it is generally recognised that corporal punishments are a last resort and should be inflicted but sparingly and with discretion, it is a matter for regret that the number of these rose from 176 to 203. The Inspector-General offered some interesting remarks upon a question which has recently been raised by the Government of India as to the comparative conduct of first offenders and

habituals; and his conclusion so far is that the latter more frequently render themselves liable to punishment. Complete information, however, has not yet been collected, and a fuller discussion is promised in next year's report.

Financial. 137. Under the head of Labour and Cash Earnings the Inspector-General has shown a cash profit of Rs. 4,59,319, as compared with Rs. 4,69,859 in 1903. The net earnings per convict in central jails ranged from Rs. 143-14 in the Presidency Jail to Rs. 12-13 at Rampur Boalia. In this connection it is pointed out that the figures given under the head of "Employed on manufactures" do not include the whole of the industrial labour in jails, as in every case a number of prisoners are employed upon petty works for the general department, which are not taken credit for, such as rope-making and the fastening of neck-rings and fetters, as also on jail buildings and the preparation of food by paddy-husking and wheat-grinding.

Civil Justice.

[Report on the Administration of Civil Justice in the Lower Provinces of Bengal for 1904; Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India, Section III.]

Judicial Staff. 138. The permanent Civil Judicial staff employed in the Province during 1904 consisted of 14 High Court Judges; 29 District and Sessions Judges; 3 Additional District and Sessions Judges; a Chief Judge and 4 Judges of the Presidency Small Cause Court; 3 Provincial Small Cause Court Judges, who exercised also the powers of a Subordinate Judge; 53 Subordinate Judges; and 295 Munsifs. In addition 8 Executive Officers exercised the powers of a Subordinate Judge or Small Cause Court Judge, and 3 the powers of a Munsif.

During the year the permanent Judicial staff was increased by the addition of two Munsifs. In addition to the permanent staff, several officers were employed also during the year temporarily.

ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

I.—High Court.

Original suits instituted. 139. The number of civil suits pending on the Original Side of the High Court at the end of 1903 was 1,674, including 62 pending suits received by transfer from other courts; and the number instituted during 1904 was 981, including 6 suits received on remand and 8 by transfer from other courts during the year, making a total of 2,655 for disposal in 1904. Of the suits instituted during 1904, 509 were for money or moveable property, 146 were mortgage suits, and 99 for immoveable property.

The value of suits for specific money-claims was Rs. 57,04,161-3-9, as compared with Rs. 48,87,657-11-1 in the previous year.

The number of suits decided in 1904 was 1,396, and the number left undisposed of at the end of the year was 1,259. The number of suits under trial was fewer than that at the commencement of the year by 415. There were 573 suits pending over one year, showing a decrease of 392 on the figures of the previous year.

Of the suits decided, 446 were dismissed for default or want of prosecution, 61 were withdrawn with leave, 44 were determined by compromise, 98 were decreed on confession, 223 were decreed *ex-parte*, 9 were dismissed *ex-parte*, 11 were disposed of by reference to arbitration, 594 were decreed after contest, and 110 were dismissed after contest.

Extraordinary Jurisdiction. 140. At the commencement of the year two suits were pending in the High Court in its Extraordinary Original Civil Jurisdiction. One of them was dismissed during the year, and the other remained pending at the close of it.

Probates and Letters of Administration. 141. There were disposed of during the year 480 petitions for Probate and Letters of Administration, 3,500 interlocutory applications (including applications for the appointment of guardians under the Guardians and Wards' Act, for the

appointment of guardians *ad litem*, for the appointment of Receivers, for injunctions, for discovery of documents, for execution, etc.), and 800 applications for summonses to witnesses. Of the interlocutory applications, those for the appointment of guardians *ad litem*, for the discovery of documents, for special leave to file written statements after time, and for summonses to witnesses were disposed of by the Registrar.

Appeals from the Original Jurisdiction.

142. The number of appeals from the Original to the Appellate Side of the Court pending at the commencement of 1904 was 58, and 82 new appeals were preferred during the year. Of these appeals, 25 were dismissed for default and 60 were decided, the decrees of the Court of First Instance being affirmed in 46, reversed in 8, and in 6 cases the appeals were remanded. Fifty-five appeals remained undecided at the close of the year.

Reference from the Calcutta Court of Small Causes, etc.

143. At the commencement of the year two references were pending, and one was made during the year. All of them were disposed of during the year, the judgment of the Court below being affirmed in one, and two cases being sent back. Sixty cases transferred from the Calcutta Court of Small Causes under Section 39 of the Presidency Small Cause Court Act were pending at the commencement of the year, and during the year eight applications under that section were made to the High Court for transfer to that Court. All the applications were granted. Of the 68 cases for disposal, 6 were decreed after trial, 5 were dismissed after trial, 1 was dismissed *ex-parte*, 1 was withdrawn, 4 were decreed on confession, 2 were compromised and 32 were dismissed for default. The remaining 17 cases were pending at the close of the year.

Four applications under section 622 of the Code of Civil Procedure to call for records from the Calcutta Court of Small Causes were pending at the commencement of the year, and 10 such applications were made to the High Court during the year. Of these applications, 6 were refused, and in two cases the records were called for and the High Court directed a re-hearing by the Calcutta Small Cause Court. Six cases were pending at the close of the year.

Insolvency Cases.

144. The number of cases pending in the Insolvency Court at the commencement of the year was 190, and the number instituted during the year was 237. Of the 427 cases for disposal, 242 cases were disposed of, in 46 cases the adjudication being set aside or superseded, and the insolvents obtaining relief in 196 cases; 2 cases were struck off. Of the persons who sought relief in the cases disposed of, 87 were traders within the meaning of the Insolvency Act, 68 were private persons, and 89 were persons employed in public and other offices.

Miscellaneous applications.

145. There were also disposed of during the year 26 applications for *ad interim* protection, and 1,118 applications of a miscellaneous character.

Appeals to the Privy Council.

146. Two appeals from the Original Side were pending at the commencement of the year, and two fresh appeals were admitted during the year under review. The transcript records in two cases were transmitted to the Privy Council during the year, and the transcript records in the two remaining cases were in course of preparation.

Receipts and Expenditure.

147. The receipts and expenditure of the High Court on the Original Side during 1904 were Rs. 7,10,298-14-3 and Rs. 4,25,788-14-9 respectively.

II.—Civil Courts in the Mufassal Subordinate to the High Court.

Jurisdiction.

148. The Ghatail outpost subordinate to thana Kalihati in the district of Mymensingh was transferred from the local jurisdiction of the Pingna munsifi to that of the Atia Munsifi in that district with effect from the 1st January 1904.

Thana Dhamnagar was transferred from the jurisdiction of the Jajpur munsifi in Cuttack to that of the Bhadrak munsifi in Balasore, and thana Soro from the jurisdiction of the Bhadrak munsifi in Balasore to that of the Balasore munsifi in that district, with effect from the 1st July 1904.

Original suits.

149. The total number of ordinary suits and small causes instituted in the Civil Courts during the year amounted to 710,272, or 41,918 more than in 1903. This number is the highest on record, and represents the high water

mark of a steadily rising tide of institutions. The total number of institutions in the year 1885 was 434,912, and since that date the upward tendency has been continuous till the present figure, which represents an increase of over 63 per cent. of the total institutions in that year, has been attained.

The increase occurred in each class of suits; those for money and moveables, rent suits and title suits showing increases of 8·01, 5·3, and 3·6 per cent. respectively. The number of suits for money or moveables instituted was 297,603, as against 275,516 in 1903.

The total amount involved in original litigation was Rs. 28,51,77,153, showing an increase of about 18 crores on the total for 1903. The increase is due to the institution of a suit valued at over 19 crores in the district of Tirhut.

Local distributton.

150. There was an increase in the number of suits instituted in all the districts except in Midnapore, Hooghly, Noakhali, Saran, Shahabad, and Chittagong. The decrease in Midnapore was due to the fact that in the year 1903 certain zamindars in the district filed a larger number of rent suits than usual. In the remaining districts the decrease calls for no special remark.

Number of suits disposed of.

151. In addition to the 710,272 suits instituted during the year, and the 108,818 pending trial from the previous year, there were 17,042 suits revived or received on remand or review during the year, making a total for disposal of 836,132.

The number of suits disposed of by the several Civil Courts has risen from 684,209 in 1903 to 723,853 in 1904. This is considerably the largest on record. The increase occurred both in contested and uncontested suits, the former having risen from 124,002 to 32,519 and the latter from 560,207 to 591,334. The increase is due to the employment of extra Munsifs and to the larger outturn of the permanent staff.

Result of disposals.

152. In the suits disposed of during the year, plaintiffs were unsuccessful in 145,130 cases or 20 per cent., of which 101·361 were dismissed for default; in 99,790 cases or 13·6 per cent. a compromise was effected; and plaintiffs were successful in 478,933 cases or 66·4 per cent. Plaintiffs were slightly more successful than in the preceding year.

Of 132,519 suits decided on contest, 109,687 or 82·7 per cent. resulted in favour of plaintiffs, and 32,832 or 17·3 per cent. in favour of defendants.

Application for retrial.

153. The proportion of applications for retrial to the number of cases which were dismissed for default or in which decrees were made *ex-parte* was fractionally less than in the previous year, the numbers being 31,121 and 455,234 respectively. The applications were successful in 16,020 cases or 57·9 per cent. Applications were less successful than in the previous year.

Suits decided by Munsifs.

154. Munsifs disposed of 38,617 more suits than in the last year. The average number of suits disposed of by each Munsif employed throughout the year was 2,246 as against 2,107 in 1903. Disposals under the Small Cause Court procedure formed 30·4 per cent. of the total number disposed of by Munsifs.

The number of contested suits disposed of by Munsifs in 1904 was 124,503 or 1·805 per cent. of the total. In the three previous years the proportions were 17·8 per cent., 18·6 per cent., and 18·3 per cent., respectively. In suits under the ordinary procedure disposed of by Munsifs, the percentage of those contested was 19·8 per cent., and in suits under the Small Cause Court procedure 14·03.

The number of cases decided by Munsifs under the ordinary procedure shows an increase of 20,970 as compared with 1903, and is the largest on record.

Suits disposed of by Subordinate Judges.

155. The number of original suits disposed of by Subordinate Judges in 1904 was 15,281, an increase of 1,055 on the figures of the previous year. This is satisfactory. Suits decided under ordinary procedure rose from 5,271 to 5,777. those decided in the exercise of Small Cause Court powers having also increased from 8,995 to 9,504. The number of contested suits decided under ordinary procedure was 2,491, and that under powers of a Small Cause Court 1,987; the percentage to the totals decided being 43·1 and 20·9 respectively. The percentages remained practically the same.

156. The Provincial Small Cause Courts disposed of 18,174 original suits, of which 3,137 were contested. The figures are normal. **Disposals by Small Cause Courts.**

157. The average duration of suits (contested and uncontested) decided during the past year shows considerable improvement on previous figures in the case of both District and Subordinate Judges. **Average duration of cases.**

158. The number of suits pending at the close of the year rose from 108,818 to 112,283. Notwithstanding the fact that the number of suits disposed of during the year was largely in excess of the disposals of any previous year, the large increase in institutions during the year coupled with the steady increase of litigation that has been so marked a feature for some years, prevented any reduction in the pending file. It is, indeed, satisfactory to observe that so much was done to keep it down. **Pending suits.**

Of the pending cases, 1,149 had been pending for more than a year, 6,524 for more than six months, and 41,752 for more than three months. Of the suits pending over one year, 523 were in the courts of Munsifs and 626 in the courts of District and Subordinate Judges. There has been a further considerable reduction, especially in the latter class of courts, in the number of suits pending for more than one year.

159. There were 106,352* applications for execution of decrees pending from the previous year, and 493,400 such applications were made during the year. Realization was complete in 145,515 cases and partial in 118,032. In 220,392 cases proceedings were returned as infructuous and 106,188 remained pending at the close of the year. The total amount realised in courts other than Small Cause Courts was Rs. 2,25,60,692. **Execution proceedings.**

Debtors were imprisoned in 363 cases, moveable property was sold in 14,625, and immoveable in 74,712.

160. The number of miscellaneous cases of a judicial nature instituted rose from 78,278 to 81,505; the number disposed of from 78,947 to 80,991, and the number pending from 16,304* to 17,613. Of the cases disposed of 32,389 were withdrawn, compromised or confessed; 23,514 were decided *ex parte*; and 25,088 were contested. Of the total number of applications disposed of after contest, 51·4 per cent. were granted. Of the pending cases, 32 had been pending for more than a year. The reduction in the number of cases pending over one year is satisfactory. **Miscellaneous cases.**

The miscellaneous cases of a non-judicial nature instituted during the year were 20,178 in number. Of these, about two-thirds were applications for the deposit of rent. Disposals numbered 18,621, and the pending file rose to 3,863.

Calcutta Small Cause Court.

161. The number of suits instituted and decided in the Presidency Court of Small Causes during 1904 and the number pending at its close was 22,729, 23,484 and 2,513, respectively. Institutions were more numerous than in 1903 by 55, and disposals by 331. The state of the pending file is practically the same as in 1903. **Number of suits.**

The increase in institutions occurred chiefly in suits of value between Rs. 50 and Rs. 100. In suits valued at over Rs. 100 there was a decrease. There was a further increase in the number of suits above Rs. 1,000 from 445 to 479.

The total value of the litigation in the Presidency Small Cause Court was Rs. 31,18,743 in the year under review, as compared with Rs. 30,92,534 in the preceding year.

The average duration of contested and uncontested cases during 1904 was 44·7 and 36·01 days, respectively, the former being 1·9 and the latter 2·89 days shorter than in 1903. It is explained that, since the beginning of the current year, adjournments on the application of the parties have been granted in exercise of the discretion vested in the Registrar under a rule of practice, which, on an erroneous reading of the rule, was not previously exercised by him; and it is trusted that there will be a further improvement in the reduction of the duration of cases.

* Revised figures.

Mode of disposal.

162. Of the 23,484 suits disposed of in 1904, 1,427 were dismissed for default or want of prosecution, or were withdrawn with leave, 18,618 were decided without contest and 3,430 were decided after contest or upon reference to arbitration.

Of the 2,513 suits remaining under trial at the close of 1904, only 35, as in 1903, had been pending for more than three months.

Execution of decrees.

163. Out of 34,388 applications for the execution of decrees dealt with in the Presidency Small Cause Court, of which 818 were pending from the previous year, 33,704 were determined and 684 remained pending at the close of the year. Of the latter 246 were more than three months old. Of the applications disposed of 26,972 resulted in whole or partial satisfaction of the decrees granted, 5,054 were returned as wholly infructuous, and 1,678 were transferred to other courts.

The total amount realised was Rs. 8,12,656, as compared with Rs. 7,86,063 in the previous year.

In order to enforce the execution of decrees, imprisonment was resorted to in 76 cases and sale of moveables in 706.

APPELLATE JURISDICTION.

I.—High Court.

Appeals under the Letters Patent.

164. Under Section 15 of the Letters Patent there were 82 first appeals filed during the year, and 58 were pending at its commencement. Of the total 85 were decided and 55 remained unheard at the close of the year. As compared with the disposals of 1903, those of 1904 show an increase of 48.

Appeals from the Subordinate Civil Courts.

Appeals to the High Court from Subordinate Courts.

165. The number of first and second appeals from the decrees and orders of the Provincial Courts as Courts of Original and Appellate Jurisdiction, respectively, which came before the High Court and were decided during the past year, is shown in the margin. The figures include appeals from the Courts of Assam. The institutions of first appeals from decrees and orders, and of second appeals from decrees were, respectively, 150, 97 and 385 more than in 1903. Second appeals from orders were 35 less than in 1903.

	Pending at the end of 1903.	Preferred.	Decided.	Pending at the end of 1904.
First Appeals.				
From decrees ...	1,206	597	632	1,171
From orders ...	341	347	243	445
Second Appeals.				
From decrees ...	5,635	3,186	3,630	5,191
From orders ...	158	218	250	126
Total ...	7,340	4,348	4,755	6,933

Appeals decided.

166. The number of first appeals from decrees and second appeals from decrees and orders decided exceed that of 1903 by 195, 694 and 21 respectively; while the disposals of first appeals from orders are fewer by 28.

Appeals pending.

167. At the close of the year there were pending 1,616 first appeals, of which 1,171 were from decrees and 445 from orders; and 5,317 second appeals, of which 5,191 were from decrees. In the total number of appeals of all classes pending, the figures have fallen from 7,340 to 6,933, which represents a substantial reduction in the arrears when regard is had to the large increase in institutions during the year.

Results of appeals.

168. Of the 632 appeals from original decrees decided during the year, 98 were uncontested, being dismissed on default, withdrawn or compromised. Of those decided after contest, 405 decrees of the Lower Courts were confirmed, 43 reversed, 49 varied and 37 remanded.

Of the 3,630 appeals from Appellate decrees, 1,439 were uncontested. Two thousand one hundred and ninety-one were heard and determined, with the result that 1,460 decrees of the Lower Courts were affirmed, 122 reversed, 262 varied and 347 remanded.

Of the 493 appeals from orders decided during the last year, 188 were uncontested and 305 were decided after trial. Of the latter, 221 orders of the Lower Courts were affirmed, 34 reversed, 6 varied and 44 remanded.

The following table shows the result of the appeals decided by the High Court as affecting District Judges and Subordinate Judges:—

		Affirmed.			Modified or Reversed.	
		District Judges.	Subordinate Judges.	Munsif.	District Judges.	Subordinate Judges.
Appeals from	Original decrees ...	112	293	...	25	67
	Appellate decrees ...	605	855	...	270	114
Miscellaneous appeals ...		90	130	1	24	16

Appeals to the Privy Council.

169. At the opening of the year, five appeals to the Privy Council were under preparation for despatch to England, and 21 were pending for orders. Fifty-one new appeals were filed during the year. Of the total for disposal, 35 were struck off or compromised, 6 were despatched to England, and 36 appeals—1 of 1902, 7 of 1903 and 28 of 1904—were pending at the close of the year. Of the pending appeals, 6 were under preparation for despatch to England at the close of the year.

The results of 19 appeals to the Privy Council were received during the year. The decisions of the High Court were affirmed in 9 instances, reversed in 6, and varied in 1, and 3 appeals were remanded.

Appellate Courts Subordinate to the High Court.

Appeals instituted.

170. There were 21,696 appeals instituted in 1904. The number was in excess of any of the preceding years, and was 1,843 more than in 1903. The increase is due to the large increase of original suits.

Of the appeals instituted in 1904, 9,046 were in title suits, 10,152 in rent suits, and 2,498 in suits for money or moveables. The number shows an increase in the two first named classes and a decrease in the last named.

The number of appeals valued at sums below Rs. 10 and between Rs. 10 and Rs. 50 was 2,736 and 7,242, respectively. The total value of appeals instituted in the Subordinate Courts in 1904 was Rs. 36,74,898, exceeding the total of 1903 by over four lakhs.

The number of cases decided by the Subordinate Courts in which an appeal lay to the District Court was 92,681, and the proportion of appeals instituted to appealable decisions, excluding appeals from decisions of Revenue Officers, was 22·7 per cent. as against 22·5 of the previous year. The highest percentages were 42·9 in Gaya, 40·1 in Patna, 35· in Shahabad, 34·9 in Cuttack, 31·8 in Dacca and 31·04 in Chota Nagpur; and the lowest were 11·3 in Dinajpur, 11·9 in Murshidabad, 12·6 in Purnea and 13·8 in Birbhum and Rangpur.

Appeals disposed of.

171. The number of appeals decided was 23,993, being in excess of those preferred and of the number disposed of in the previous year by 3,567. The increase occurred in the disposals by District and Additional Judges, as well as in those by Subordinate Judges, disposals by each class of these officers showing an increase of 3,442 and 125 respectively. The very large increase in the number of appeals disposed of by District and Additional Judges is a satisfactory feature, and has enabled the staff to cope with the increased institutions and to effect improvement in the total pending file.

Appeals pending.

172. The number of disposals having been in excess of the institutions, there was a decrease in arrears, the number of appeals pending at the close of 1904 showing a decrease of 1,619 and amounting to 118,45.

The number of appeals pending for more than one year has been reduced, being 731 as compared with 1,052 in 1903. Appeals pending for more than three months also decreased from 4,663 to 4,294. Of the former, the largest numbers were in 24-Parganas (438), Noakhali (127), and Cuttack (55). In order to enable the staff to cope with the work of the 24-Parganas, in which district the files had become congested, the addition of a third Subordinate Judge has been recommended to Government. Assistance has been afforded to Noakhali with a view to reducing the arrears.

Results of appeals.

173. The results on the decisions of the Lower Courts of the appeals decided during the year was as follows:—In 13,560 cases, or 56·5 of the whole, the judgment of the Lower Court was affirmed; in 2,435 cases, or 10·1 per cent., it was modified; and in 4,213, or 17·5 per cent., it was reversed. The result

are slightly more favourable to the Lower Courts than those of the preceding year. One thousand and ninety-two appeals were remanded, and 2,693 were either not prosecuted or dismissed for default.

Miscellaneous appeals.

174. There were 3,405 miscellaneous appeals instituted during the year, and 3,517 were disposed of; 622 remaining pending at the close of the years.

Administration of Civil Justice in the Scheduled districts of Angul, the Sonthal Parganas and the Chittagong Hill Tracts.

175. The total number of suits instituted during the year in the Civil Courts in the Scheduled districts of Angul (including Khondmals), the Sonthal Parganas and the Chittagong Hill Tracts was 12,722; the number of money suits was 7,736, of rents suits 3,985, and of title and other suits 1,001. The total number of civil suits for disposal was 14,481. The number disposed of (excluding the number of suits transferred to Courts in other provinces) was 13,146. Of this number 3,229 suits were contested and 232 were disposed of by arbitration. The total number of appeals from decrees presented to the Civil Appellate Courts of the districts was 760 and the number disposed of was 677. Out of 134 miscellaneous civil appeals 115 were disposed of. Twelve thousand nine hundred and sixty-six applications for the execution of decrees were made and the number disposed of was 10,845.

Registration.

[Statistical Returns with a brief note of the Registration Department in Bengal, 1904; Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India, Section IX; Financial and Commercial Statistics of British India—Twelfth Issue—Section XXIX.]

General.

176. There were 457 offices open at the end of 1904, against 454 at the end of 1903. Four new offices were opened in 1904, viz., the joint sub-registry office at Hasanabad, in the district of the 24-Parganas, the offices at Gumla and Bundu in the district of Ranchi, and the office at Latihar in the district of Palamau. The office at Lohardaga in Ranchi was abolished, its jurisdiction being divided between the Sadar office and the newly-opened offices at Bundu and Gumla.

Registration in the various Divisions: Burdwan Division.

177. In the Burdwan Division registrations decreased in 1904 as compared with 1903, in which year the total number of deeds registered was the highest during the triennium. In Burdwan the decrease (10 per cent.) occurred under nearly all the heads of registration, and is ascribed partly to the cessation of the settlement of *chaukidari chakran* lands which, beginning in 1902, went on briskly in 1903, and partly to the failure of crops in successive years.

Presidency Division.

178. In the Presidency Division the total number of registrations in 1903 was the highest during the triennial period; with the exception of a slight increase in Jessore and Calcutta, there was a falling off in the other districts in 1904 as compared with 1903. The decrease in the 24-Parganas (8·3 per cent.), which occurred mostly in the offices in the southern part of the district, a tract inhabited by poor people, is ascribed to the continued failure of crops during the last three years, which compelled the poor cultivators to part with or mortgage whatever of value they had.

Orissa Division.

179. In the districts of the Orissa Division there was a decrease in registrations in 1904 as compared with 1903, the figures for 1902 having been the highest on record during the triennium. The decrease in 1904 was on account of better crops. In Cuttack, although the total number of registrations remained nearly stationary during the triennium, the number of perpetual leases registered in 1904 was nearly double that of 1903.

Patna Division.

180. In the districts of the Patna Division the highest figures were those of 1902, followed by a drop in 1903, and a slight increase in 1904 as compared with 1903. Except in Darbhanga, where registrations continued to be nearly stationary throughout the triennium, the largest increase (21·8 per cent.) in 1904 as compared with 1903 occurred in Champaran, the bulk of which was in mortgages of both kinds. In Saran the increase did not take place throughout the district and cannot be attributed to any general cause. The year on the whole was prosperous and the crops good except *bhadoi*. The increase in Muzaffarpur (8·1 per cent.) is ascribed partly to the early cessation of the rains in 1904 and partly to the outbreak of plague in 1903 in the Hajipur and Sadar subdivisions, which had reduced registrations. In this district a large increase is noticeable in the aggregate value of immoveable property affected by registration transactions. A mortgage deed of the value of Rs. 11,00,000 was registered.

181. In this Division the total number of registrations increased by 2 per cent. in 1904 as compared with 1903. In Purnea the number of perpetual leases increased by 40 per cent. in 1904 as compared with 1903. The increase took place chiefly in the Kishenganj subdivision, the removal of the Subdivisional Courts from Bahariadangi to Kishenganj having given rise to new settlement of lands in perpetuity. **Bhagalpur Division.**

182. Almost all the districts of the Rajshahi Division show steady increase in registrations during the year. In Rajshahi the total number of registrations in 1904 shows an increase of 19·5 per cent. as compared with 1903, and is ascribed to failure of crops and the adverse circumstances of the people. In Darjeeling the increase in the number of registrations in 1904 as compared with 1903 (78·1 per cent.) was remarkable. So also was the increase (105 per cent.) in the aggregate value of property. This large increase in value was due to the registration of a deed of gift valued at over Rs. 8,00,000 and also to the registration of a large number of leases at the *Sadar* and *Kurseong* offices. **Rajshahi Division.**

183. In the district of Chittagong registrations have steadily increased. Of all the districts in Bengal, the largest number of perpetual leases are registered in Chittagong. The number of such leases registered in 1904 was 19,002 as compared with 18,437 in 1903. **Chittagong Division.**

184. With the exception of Backergunge, the total number of registrations in 1904 in all the other districts was the highest during the last three years. In Dacca the increase was 8·8 per cent. in 1904 as compared with 1903. Sales of value Rs. 100 and upwards, sales of value less than Rs. 100 and mortgages of the value of Rs. 100 and upwards increased by 14·8 per cent., 10·7 per cent. and 16·7 per cent., respectively, as compared with 1903. The increases are ascribed to the impoverishment of a certain portion of the landholding class, to a certain portion of the peasantry requiring money to clear off outstanding debts and to the growing familiarity of the *raiyats* with the provisions of the Bengal Tenancy Act. **Dacca Division.**

185. There was a remarkable fall of 22·5 per cent. in registrations in 1904 as compared with 1903 in all the districts of the Chota Nagpur Division, excluding Palamau and Manbhum. The decrease was entirely due to the operation of Act V of 1903 (Chota Nagpur Tenancy Amendment Act), which came into force in November 1903. Under section 10B of the amended Act I of 1879, no transfer by a *raiyat* of his right in his holding or any portion thereof by a mortgage or lease for any period exceeding five years or by sale, gift or any other contract or agreement shall be valid. Act V of 1903 is not in force in Manbhum. **Chota Nagpur Division.**

186. The number of Companies existing at the close of the year was 430 with a nominal capital of Rs. 23,36,40,484 and a paid-up capital of Rs. 17,54,04,302 (representing share capital only), against 416 Companies with a nominal capital of Rs. 22,27,68,034 and a paid-up capital of Rs. 17,06,00,828 existing at the end of the preceding year. There was thus an increase of 14 in the number of Companies, of Rs. 1,08,72,450 in the nominal capital and of Rs. 48,03,474 in the paid up capital. Twenty-eight new Companies with a total nominal capital of Rs. 1,32,65,000 were registered during the year against eighteen new Companies with a total nominal capital of Rs. 66,23,000 registered in the previous year. Of these, the largest number (twelve) were Trading Companies, four were Coal Companies and three Tea Companies. With the extension of railways, the growth of factories, the increasing number of ocean-going steamers which burn Indian coal and the near prospect of an active development of steel-making, requiring large supplies of coke, the coal industry was bound to expand. And so we find that four new Coal Companies were formed and nine old Coal Companies increased their capital during the year. The fact that three new Tea Companies were floated during the year and ten old Tea Companies increased their capital shows that tea is still looked upon as a good investment, notwithstanding the imposition of the extra duty of two pence in the pound. **Working of the Indian Companies Act.**

The following societies were registered under Act XXI of 1860 during the year :—

(1) Marine Society of India, (2) Young Women's Christian Association of Calcutta, (3) City College Institution.

Working of the Muhammadan Marriage Registration Act.

187. Act I (B.C.) of 1876 for the voluntary registration of Muhammadan marriages and divorces was in force in 32 districts as in the previous year. Seven new offices were opened—three in the district of Ranchi and one in each of the districts of Pabna, Mymensingh, Noakhali and Tippera. Two offices were abolished—one in the district of Nadia and the other in the district of Jessore. The number of offices at the close of the year was 275, against 270 of the year preceding. The total number of ceremonies registered during the year under review was 31,949, against 29,620 in the previous year, shewing an increase of 2,329, or 7·8 per cent.

Working of the Brahmo Marriage Act.

188. There were 36 marriages registered under the Act during the year under review, as against 33 in the previous year. Twenty-three marriages were registered in Calcutta, three in Patna, two each in Bhagalpur and Cuttack, and one each in the 24-Parganas, Dacca, Barisal, Tippera, Rangpur and Chittagong.

There were 24 Marriage Registrars under the Act, besides 30 *ex-officio* Marriage Registrars Of these, only 10 Marriage Registrars and two *ex-officio* Marriage Registrars registered marriages during the year. The ages of the bridegroom ranged from 19¾ to 45 years, and those of the brides from 14 to 29 years. Three widows whose ages ranged from 16 to 21 years were remarried.

Municipal Administration and Local Self-Government.

MUNICIPALITIES OUTSIDE CALCUTTA.

[The Reports from the several Commissioners of Divisions on the working of Municipalities in Bengal (except Calcutta) during the year 1904-05; Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India, Section XVII.]

General.

189. No new municipalities were created during 1904-05, and the present Resolution reviews the statistics of 161 municipalities, the same number as in the previous year.

Vital Statistics.

190. The total number of births registered in municipalities in 1904 was 98,690 against 90,281 in 1903, the ratio to population being 34·7 per mille, which is the highest yet recorded. The number of deaths reported was 102,739, which represents a ratio of 36·1 per mille. Apart from the high mortality from plague in the Patna and Bhagalpur Divisions, the year appears to have been a healthy one. The general health of municipal towns in Bengal has undoubtedly improved during the last few years. That greater attention is given to the sources of water-supply is shown by the fact that the average death-rate from cholera declined from 4·15 in the seven years ending 1897 to 2·8 in the septennium which closed in 1904. The towns which are supplied with filtered water all show a marked improvement in this respect, and, except in Howrah and Dacca, the decrease of the mortality from dysentery is almost equally noticeable. Pure water is unfortunately no protection against malaria, and the introduction of a regular supply where the surface drainage is defective may even result in an increased fever mortality. The death-rate from fever has however steadily declined in municipal towns for the last five years, and in 1904 was only 15·3 per mille against 21·8 in 1900. A further improvement may be expected when the numerous drainage schemes now in contemplation are actually carried out. Special arrangements will be made to ascertain the effect of these works on the public health by a careful examination of the death-rate before and after their introduction. In addition to the general drainage schemes, systematic operations to remove the breeding grounds of mosquitos are necessary in many towns to combat the ravages of malaria. It is intended to carry out experiments in this direction in one or two selected municipalities at the expense of Government in order to provide an object-lesson.

Collections.

191. During the last three or four years no feature of the municipal administration of the Province has been more satisfactory than the improvement which has taken place in collections. The high standard already reached was maintained in 1904-05, and in some respects the results were even better than those of the previous year. The percentage of total collections on the current demand declined from 98·6 to 97·5, which is due to the fact that the realisable arrears have been steadily reduced for some years past and are now very small. The percentage of current collections

on current demand rose from 92·9 to 93·5, and this improvement was shared by all Divisions except Dacca and Orissa. The percentage of total remissions on the current demand rose from 3·5 to 4·1.

Number of rate-payers.

192. The total number of rate-payers was 494,533, and the percentage to population 17·2 against 17·17 in 1903-04. As in the previous year, the percentage was highest at Katwa in the Burdwan district (30·3) and lowest at Titaghar in the 24-Parganas (6·8). The low percentage in the latter Municipality is due to the asssesment being made on the owner for each block of huts instead of separately on the occupiers who are mostly migratory mill operatives. The same cause may partially account for the low ratio of rate-payers to population in Naraingunge (9·5), but the Commissioner has not alluded to the matter. In the Dacca Division as a whole the percentage continues very low, only two out of seventeen municipalities giving results above the provincial average.

Results of elections held during the year.

193. General elections were held during the year only in Cossipore-Chitpur and Manicktola. In Manicktola and in two wards of Cossipore-Chitpur there were no contests. In the two remaining wards of the last-mentioned Municipality the elections were contested, and more than half the voters went to the polls.

Constitution of Committees and attendance at Meetings.

194. The total number of Commissioners was 2,217, or 19 less than in the previous year. This is due to the reduction of the number of members in Santipur and Nadia from 25 and 12 to 9 each. The number of meetings held was 2,828, of which 199 had to be adjourned. These figures disclose very little variation from those of the previous year. The Cossipore-Chitpur Municipality again held the largest number of meetings (44) and was followed by Sherpur in Mymensingh (41) and Murshidabad (39). Twelve municipalities failed to hold one meeting a month, and in Jamalpur, Dumka and Kendrapara only eight meetings were held. The average attendance at a meeting fell from 59·9 to 53·6. The number of municipalities in which half the Commissioners were ordinarily present was 109 against 118. The average attendance was best in the small Municipality of Rajpur in the 24-Parganas (90·14). It exceeded three-fourths of the number of Commissioners in Nadia, Bhadreswar, Buxar, Garulia, Dainhat, Maheshpur and South Barrackpore. The worst attendance was at Jalpaiguri, where it was only 30·3 per cent.

Assessment and Taxation.

195. As in the previous year, the rate on holdings was in force in 47 municipalities and in certain wards of Bhadreswar, South Dum-Dum and Deoghur, the alternative tax on persons being levied elsewhere. The enforcement of the rate on holdings has, however, been sanctioned in six more Municipalities, viz., Kotrung, Bhatpara, Garulia, Rangpur, Noakhali and Cuttack. This will leave only eight municipalities with a population exceeding twenty thousand, viz., Bankura, Berhampore, Rampur Boalia, Sirajganj, Arrah, Sassaram, Bettiah, Darbhanga and Balasore, in which the tax on persons will continue to be levied. The need for the change is urgent in Berhampore, Arrah and Darbhanga, the state of things in the two former Municipalities being rendered still more anomalous by the fact that both the water and latrine-rates are in force, and are levied on the annual value of holdings. Latrine-fees are levied in 112 municipalities, the water-rate in fourteen and the lighting-rate in two (Darjeeling and Howrah). The imposition of a water-rate has been sanctioned in Tollygunge, and will come into force as soon as the water is supplied, and the levy of a lighting-rate has been sanctioned in Cossipore-Chitpur and Manicktola. In 15 municipalities the rate on holdings was levied at less than the legal maximum. Of the four municipalities in which the legal maximum has been raised to ten per cent., only Dacca and Darjeeling have availed themselves of their powers, the rate in Howrah and Patna being seven and-a-half per cent. The average incidence of the taxation per head of the population has been gradually increasing since 1889-90, and during the past year it rose from Re. 1-3-11 to Re. 1-4-4. If the two hill Municipalities—Darjeeling and Kurseong, whose circumstances are exceptional—are excluded, Howrah is, as might be expected, the town most heavily taxed, the average payment per head being Rs. 3-6-4. The lowest point is touched at Ramjibanpur in Midnapore, where each person pays only 4 annas and 5 pies. There are twenty-six other towns in which the incidence is less than eight annas per head.

Revision of assessment.

196. In many municipalities general or partial revisions of the assessments were made. The revision of the assessment in Chittagong resulted in an increase of about Rs. 7,000 in the house-tax and of Rs. 4,000 in the latrine-tax. In Bhagalpur the assessment was revised by a Sub-Deputy Collector deputed by Government, a survey of the town having been previously made by the Survey Department. The Commissioner reports that the result has been an increase of nearly 20 per cent., which may however be reduced on appeal. The survey of Monghyr town was completed, and the revision of the assessment was taken up during the current year. Action was taken under section 111A to remedy inadequate and inequitable assessments in Halisahar, Baduria, Chapra and Revelganj.

The new procedure for the appointment of Appellate Committees, to which reference was made in last year's Resolution, has now been adopted by a large number of municipalities, and steps are about to be taken to incorporate it in the substantive law. A scheme for the employment of a permanent staff of trained assessors was also drawn up and placed before the municipalities; but it was found to be too expensive, and only a small proportion of them were ready to join in it. The scheme has accordingly been abandoned for the present, but Commissioners of Divisions have been instructed to keep a list of persons qualified to act as assessors whose services will be placed at the disposal of such municipalites as may require them.

Income and expenditure.

197. The total income of the municipalities, including the opening balance, was Rs. 67,21,637, or Rs. 3,91,398 more than in the previous year. The total expenditure was Rs. 57,93,338 against Rs. 53,85,903 in 1903-04.

Closing balances of Municipalities.

198. The aggregate closing balances of the municipalities diminished by Rs. 16,037. This is due probably to the fact that the amount borrowed during the year fell from Rs. 2,41,860 to Rs. 2,17,235. Where the balance is large, it is due, as in Howrah (Rs. 1,41,384), to the inclusion of unspent loans from Government or, as in Chapra (Rs. 33,547), to the accumulation of funds for a market or other work of public utility. Some municipalities still neglect to maintain a sufficient working balance. This was most noticeably the case in Meherpur (Rs. 112), Debhatta (Rs. 92), Arrah (Rs. 14) and Roserah (Rs. 9). The attention of the Divisional Commissioners concerned is invited to these figures, which are not creditable to the administration of the above mentioned towns.

INCOME.

Income.

199. The aggregate income of the mufassal municipalities is less than that of Calcutta alone, being Rs. 57,77,295. It is, however, growing steadily; and there was a gain during the year of Rs. 2,79,113, or 6 per cent. This is the more satisfactory as there was a falling off of Rs. 9,672 under Extraordinary and Debt. About a lakh was derived from taxation, and nearly a lakh and a half from grants and contributions. All divisions, except Dacca, contributed to this general result; but the increase was greatest in the Presidency Division, where it amounted to nearly a lakh.

Tax on houses and lands.

200. The revenue from the rate on holdings increased by Rs. 37,206, standing at Rs. 12,99,830. The improvement was marked in Bhagalpur (Rs. 8,615), due mainly to an improvement in collections, in Darjeeling (Rs. 7,662) owing to the enhancement of the rate of taxation, in Hooghly-Chinsura, and in Chapra. A decrease in Darbhanga is ascribed to the fact that certain assessments which had been revised under section 93 of the Act could not be collected pending the disposal of objections.

Tax on animals and vehicles.

201. The receipts under this head were Rs. 2,72,877, having increased by Rs. 11,516; Rs. 1,170 were collected in Nawabganj, where the tax was levied for the first time. A marked improvement took place in Purulia (Rs. 1,918), Howrah (Rs. 1,910) and Deoghur (Rs. 1,337), and in so far as the increase is the result of closer supervision it is satisfactory, but there is some ground for thinking that the income in some municipalities is unduly swelled by the registration of carts which cannot be said to be used "in the ordinary course of business" within the municipality.

Tax on professions and trades.

202. This tax is levied in 139 municipalities out of 161 and amounts to Rs. 65,323. The receipts increased by Rs. 970, but they nowhere constitute a substantial portion of the municipal income.

Tolls on roads and ferries.

203. Tolls on roads are not levied in Bengal. The receipts from ferries show a net decrease of Rs. 456. In Saran a decrease of Rs. 1,335 is ascribed to the resettlement of ferries at reduced rentals, but the cause of the reduction is not explained. The falling off in Monghyr (Rs. 2,000) is due to an advance collection of Rs. 1,000 in 1903-04, and to the failure to collect Rs. 1,000 in 1904-05. A decline of Rs. 934 in Cuttack is due to similar causes. The largest increases were obtained in Chandpur (Rs. 2,396) and Burdwan (Rs. 1,445); the former was due mainly to the realization of the previous year's arrears.

Water-rate.

204. Receipts under this head amounted to Rs. 82,97,903. A water-rate is now levied in fourteen municipalities, having been levied for the first time during the year in Kurseong and Daltonganj. In these two municipalities the proceeds amounted to Rs. 3,842 and Rs. 469, while in the other municipalities they increased from Rs. 2,85,248 to Rs. 2,93,592. There was an increase of Rs. 2,513 in Darjeeling due to better collections; of Rs. 1,914 in Mymensingh, owing to revision of assessment and the raising of the rate; and of Rs. 4,874 in Bhagalpur, owing to a larger demand and better collections.

Lighting-rate.

205. The proceeds of this rate, which is levied only in Howrah and Darjeeling, increased by Rs. 3,310. The increase is said to be due to better collections in Darjeeling, but fuller information should have been given by the Commissioner.

Conservancy, including scavenging and latrine-rates.

206. This amounted to Rs. 8,62,715. The revenue obtained from it improved in all Divisions except Burdwan, where there was a falling off of Rs. 2,349. The large increase of Rs. 24,106 in the Presidency Division is due mainly to the extension of Part IX to the Santipur and Nadia Municipalities, where the receipts amounted to Rs. 12,222 and Rs. 4,235 respectively.

Tax on persons according to their circumstances and property.

207. The income under this head amounted to Rs. 6,12,119 and shows a small increase of Rs. 1,424. There was a rise of Rs. 8,498 in the Presidency Division, but in the Patna Division the temporary exodus of residents from certain municipalities on account of plague caused a decline of Rs. 5,805, or 4·2 per cent.

Liberality on the part of private individuals.

208. The Commissioners have, as usual, recorded in their reports many instances of private liberality. The most prominent of the public benefactors during the year was the Maharani of Hatwa, who gave Rs. 25,000 for the construction of a new female ward and operation-room for the Chapra Hospital, and contributed Rs. 5,000 towards the cost of reconstructing the Bourdillon Market in the same town. Babu Dhanpat Singh Nowlakha subscribed Rs. 16,000 towards the construction and equipment of a Charitable Dispensary at Azimganj. The names of these and other donors will be recorded in a separate Resolution.

EXPENDITURE.

Expenditure.

209. The aggregate expenditure of the mufassal municipalities amounted to Rs. 57,93,338, against Rs. 58,85,903 in 1903-04 and Rs. 40,67,711 ten years ago. The ordinary expenditure (*i.e.*, excluding loans, advances and the like) rose from Rs. 45,04,960 to Rs. 48,34,702. The main heads under which this increase has occurred are—Roads (Rs. 2,80,554), Lighting (Rs. 87,424), Conservancy (Rs. 53,662) and Drainage (Rs. 34,411). On the other hand, the expenditure on water-supply was less than in the previous year by Rs. 1,21,872, and that on buildings by Rs. 39,281. The distribution of the expenditure over the principal heads is still on the whole much the same as it was ten years ago.

Office and Collection Establishment.

210. This amounted to Rs. 4,47,340. The expenditure increased in five Divisions and diminished in four, the net result being a decrease of Rs. 9,975. The expenditure undert his head was about one-tenth of the total ordinary expenditure.

Prevention of fire.

211. The outlay under this head was Rs. 30,275, having increased by Rs. 2,694. Almost the whole of it was incurred in the Burdwan and Presidency Divisions, and four-fifths of it in the two Municipalities of Howrah and Cossipore-Chitpur, which contribute towards the upkeep of the Metropolitan Fire-brigade. In the rest of the Province the charges were trifling. There were ten fires during the year, involving a loss of 5½ lakhs of

rupees. The most serious fires were those at the Ghoosery Cotton Mills and the Sulkea Jute Press.

Lighting.

212. The expenditure under this head amounted to Rs. 3,29,835, showing an increase of no less than Rs. 87,124, or 27 per cent. This is almost wholly accounted for by heavy expenditure in Darjeeling on the electric lighting scheme, the charges for which exceeded those of the previous year by Rs. 79,045, the capital outlay amounting to Rs. 75,949. There has also been a general, though slight, increase in expenditure throughout the Province.

Water-supply.

213. The expenditure on maintenance increased by Rs. 12,580, but the capital outlay diminished by Rs. 1,34,452, the net result being a decrease of Rs. 1,21,872. The capital charges in 1903-04 were exceptionally high and the falling off was not unexpected.

Eight municipalities maintain complete water-work installations of their own. Of these the Howrah Water-works are entitled on all accounts to the first place. Their management was most efficient and the cost of maintenance was reduced from 1·3 to 1·1 anna per thousand gallons. In Burdwan the Commissioners have maintained the high standard which they reached for the first time in the previous year. The cost of maintenance was reduced from 2·7 to 1·7 anna per thousand gallons, and by the advice of the Civil Surgeon, a successful experiment was made in the use of ferro-sulphate of alumina to remove the silt from the river water. The other water-works have had greater difficulties to contend with and have not always succeeded in overcoming them. At Berhampore, Dacca, Arrah and Bhagalpur the recession of the main current of river from the intakes has occasioned great trouble and expense. At Arrah a channel was scraped through the sand-banks, while in the other three towns centrifugal pumps in the bed of the river had to be used to bring the water to the intakes. The management of the Berhampore Water-works was far from satisfactory. According to the Sanitary Engineer's estimate the rate-payers received a supply of only 2·8 gallons per head of the population, while the maintenance charges amounted to 10½ annas per thousand gallons. For forty-eight days the supply was cut off altogether; serious irregularities occurred in the accounts and grave discrepancies were found in the coal used. In these circumstances it is regrettable that the Commissioners have abandoned the intention previously expressed to adopt the Government rules for the appointment of a Committee of management. They have been warned that unless a very marked improvement is effected, the management will be taken out of their hands altogether. At Dacca the condition of the works is not satisfactory, but the Commissioners adhere to their determination not to impose a water-rate. In Darjeeling the supply was insufficient during the hot-weather months, and arrangements have been made to link up a spring which has hitherto been untapped. At Arrah a very large amount of the water pumped is lost owing to the leaks in the settling tanks and filters. The result is a serious reduction in the supply and heavy maintenance charges in proportion to the water supplied. In Bhagalpur the position became so serious that a Special Committee was appointed to examine the water-works and suggest means for their improvement. The Committee met at the end of the year and have submitted recommendations involving a capital outlay of about a lakh and a half of rupees. Towards this amount Government has undertaken to contribute Rs. 65,000, and it is hoped that the Municipality will be able to provide the balance.

Certain towns are in the fortunate position of being able to obtain their water from an external source and are thus saved the expense and trouble of keeping up an installation of their own. Daltonganj now gets a daily supply of 40,000 gallons from the Railway at two annas per thousand gallons, while Garulia, Tittaghar and Bhatpara are supplied with water by the Mills free of cost. Several of the Suburban Municipalities draw water from the Calcutta mains; but owing to the shortness of filtered water in the town have been unable to get the full promised supply. The Corporation has recently arranged to increase their supply by about six million gallons daily, and are now in a position to comply with their engagements.

The management of a water-works installation, particularly when the supply is drawn from a river which is liable to desert its channel, presents

problems of peculiar difficulty which are apt to prove too complex for solution by the unaided energies of Municipal bodies. The financial burden they entail is heavy, and Government assistance has often to be invoked. Nevertheless a considerable measure of success has been obtained in combating the difficulties that present themselves. Towns of moderate size that are content with unambitious projects may obtain very satisfactory results from a filter such as that which has been established at Faridpur, which is designed to supply ten thousand gallons a day. Similar filters have been set up at Patuakhali and Jessore, and sanction has been accorded to a scheme of the same kind at Khulna.

Drainage.

214. The expenditure (Rs. 2,01,584) exceeded that of the previous year by Rs. 34,411, of which Rs. 15,198 was due to larger capital outlay and Rs. 19,213 to increased charges for maintenance. In Howrah Rs. 24,431 were spent on the construction of the Sibpur section of the drainage scheme. In Burdwan Rs. 3,928 were expended on the preliminary survey and levelling operations, and Rs. 2,603 in Serampore for similar work. The expenditure of Rs. 5,145 in Narainganj was due chiefly to the completion of the Sutarpara drainage work, joining all the ditches and cess-pools in that mahalla with the river by the construction of a masonry culvert.

The expenditure on drainage works may be expected to increase steadily for some years to come. In nearly all the important municipalities in the Province schemes are at various stages of preparation, and some of the smaller towns also are awaking to their responsibilities in this matter. A complete enumeration of the various projects would occupy too much space, and only the more prominent schemes can be referred to. For drainage purposes Howrah has been divided into four sections. Work is already in progress on the Sibpur section, and the Southern Foreshore is about to be taken up. In the 24-Parganas district particular attention is being given to drainage. Schemes have already been completed for Baranagar, Titagarh and Garulia, and these will shortly be commenced, while the projects in Cossipore-Chitpur, Budge-Budge and Garden Reach are nearing completion. The Arathoon Jute Mills Company are about to take up the drainage of the salt water from Ward No. 3 in South Dum-Dum. The Lieutenant-Governor has learned with regret that the Commissioners of the Berhampore Municipality have adopted the short-sighted and wasteful policy of adding new lengths to their pucka drains, although no proper scheme has been prepared. The Commissioner must see that his order forbidding such expenditure is obeyed. The preparation of a well thought-out scheme based on a careful survey may involve some delay in commencing work, but in no other way can the waste of public money on useless works be prevented. The comprehensive drainage scheme for Monghyr is still in preparation, and the Puri drainage scheme was sanctioned after the close of the year. Owing to the exceptional position of Puri as a pilgrim centre, the sanitary improvement of the town is a matter of more than local importance, and every effort must be made to press on the work. It is hoped that an Assistant Sanitary Engineer will be appointed shortly, whose chief duty will be to assist municipalities in preparing their drainage schemes.

Conservancy, including road-cleaning and road-watering and latrines.

215. The outlay on conservancy (Rs. 13,60,642) increased in all Divisions except Burdwan. It now amounts to 30·6 per cent. of the aggregate municipal expenditure. The progress in this direction during the last five years has been rapid, and is no doubt due largely to the advent of plague. The difficulties in connection with the existing system for the removal of night-soil are however almost insuperable, and it is only natural that many municipalities should turn to the bacteriological methods of night-soil disposal for a solution of their difficulties. It is reported that the biological filters in Howrah continue to work well, and the sewage filter at Nayasarak in Dacca is also said to be satisfactory. No information has been given with regard to the septic tank constructed in the same town in 1903-04. The septic tank at Muzaffarpur, which was completed towards the close of the year, was not actually brought into use. It is not likely however that rapid progress in this direction will be made unless some means can be devised for disposing of the effluent in a satisfactory manner, or of securing an effluent which shall not only be chemically but bacteriologically pure. Recent experiments indicate that a high standard of purity can be obtained by the treatment of the effluent with chlorine.

Of the net increase of Rs. 53,662 in the expenditure in the whole Province, the Presidency Division is responsible for Rs. 31,726. The outbreak of plague in some of the towns near Calcutta resulted in increased attention being given to the cleaning department. Many of the suburban towns are alive to their responsibilities and are taking energetic action to put things right. In his report for the year 1904 the Sanitary Commissioner draws attention to the excellent work which is being done in Bhatpara, Tittaghar, Maniktala and Garden Reach in the way of improving insanitary *bastis*. Roads are being cut through them, tanks filled up and insanitary latrines abolished. The example is one that might well be followed, for in these Municipalities gratifying results have been obtained with a comparatively small outlay.

Hospitals and Dispensaries.

216. The expenditure on Hospitals and Dispensaries (Rs. 5,05,060) exceeded that of 1902-03 by Rs. 35,741, but was less by Rs. 5,269 than that of 1903-04. The total expenditure for medical purposes, inclusive of plague charges which are separately shown, was Rs. 5,46,549, but the contributions received from Government, local bodies and the public amounted to Rs. 3,68,969. The actual contributions by municipalities from their own resources amounted, however, to more than the difference between these two sums, because the Government grants for 1904-05, which were exceptionally large, were not fully spent. According to the Dispensary Report for 1904 the net expenditure in that year came to Rs. 2,32,056, or 5·2 per cent. of the ordinary expenditure. The important point is that this figure is less by Rs. 51,978 than the amount contributed in the previous year; and as it was not intended that the appointment of separate Dispensary Committees should lead to a reduction of this nature, special instructions have been issued to Commissioners to make a fuller use of their power of budget control, and to see that the needs of the Dispensaries are fairly provided for. The proportionate expenditure is noticeably small in the Burdwan and Presidency Divisions.

Vaccination.

217. The total expenditure on vaccination (Rs. 21,795) has hardly varied during the last four years, but the actual work done has diminished. The number of infants under one year of age successfully vaccinated fell from 45,817 in 1903-04 to 44,069.

Markets, slaughter-houses, etc.

218. The necessity of preventing the spread of disease through the public food-supply is now receiving fairly general attention. The provisions of Part X of the Act were extended to nine municipalities; new markets were opened at Vishnupur and Barh, and are under construction at Chapra and Puri. The total expenditure on markets and slaughter-houses rose from Rs. 23,753 to Rs. 43,630, of which Rs. 16,314 were spent on improving the Municipal market in Howrah. The work of inspecting the food-supply is carried out in some cases by special Sanitary Inspectors and in others by the Overseers, but in most of the smaller municipalities this duty is performed by the Commissioners themselves. The need for close supervision is shown by the fact that in Bankura and Cuttack persons affected with leprosy were found selling food.

Public Works.

219. The expenditure on public works rose from Rs. 7,74,284 to Rs. 10,21,869. This is accounted for by an increase of nearly three lakhs in the outlay on roads, of which again Rs. 2,24,180 represents the contribution made by the Howrah Municipality to the East Indian Railway as their share of the cost of strengthening the Buckland Bridge, in order to enable it to bear the weight of electric tram-cars.

Public Instruction.

220. The expenditure on education (Rs. 1,52,392) shows an increase of Rs. 7,653. The amount spent on primary education rose from Rs. 81,789 to Rs. 83,903. This represents 2·8 per cent. of the aggregate ordinary income of the municipalities. The percentage was highest in the Orissa Division (4·1) and lowest in the Burdwan Division (2·1). The prescribed standard of 3·2 per cent. has not yet been reached in the aggregate, but it is largely exceeded in many of the smaller towns. The general ratio is kept down by the fact that in the larger towns primary education can be provided for by a smaller proportionate expenditure. The above figures have been compiled from those given in the Municipal reports. The returns of the Education Department place the expenditure from Municipal funds on primary education in the year under review at Rs. 1,00,033. An attempt will be made to reconcile the discrepancy.

Loans.

221. Thirty-nine municipalities were in debt to Government at the close of the year, their total indebtedness amounting to Rs. 34,77,735. Against this however must be set off Rs. 1,51,285, the amount accumulated in the sinking funds of the Burdwan, Howrah and Bhagalpur Municipalities, to pay off their debenture loans, which are outside the Government account, and also a sum of Rs 8,370 payable to the Chittagong Municipality by the Port Commissioners of that town. The net indebtedness is therefore only Rs. 33,18,080, more than half of which represents the debt of the Howrah Municipality. Five new loans aggregating Rs. 2,17,235 were granted during the year, while the payments on account of the principal of existing loans amounted to Rs. 1,28,319, the increase in the net indebtedness being Rs. 88,916. Howrah received Rs. 1,50,000, the balance of the loan for the reconstruction of the Buckland Bridge. Tollygunge received Rs. 16,000 for its filtered water-supply, and South Barrackpore and Panihati Rs. 1,500 and Rs. 3,750 to meet their share of the cost of improving the Kharda Khal. Darjeeling drew Rs. 43,985, the balance of its loan for the improvement of the electric-light installation, and Monghyr Rs. 2,000 for the cost of the survey of the town.

On the 31st of March 1905, the outstanding liabilities of all the municipalities in the Province on account of unpaid bills and unfinished works were Rs. 1,44,894, which is more than 15 per cent. of the closing balance. In twelve towns these liabilities exceeded the closing balance, and in seven it exceeded 15 per cent. of the current demand. Commissioners should impress on all municipalities the necessity of meeting all demands as they fall due and not allowing them to accumulate until they become unmanageable.

Audit of accounts and embezzlements.

222. There were fewer cases of embezzlement than in the previous year, only two such instances being reported. In Daudnagar the head clerk was found to have embezzled more than Rs. 800, and in Bhagalpur a similar fraud was committed by a collecting sircar. The office of the Cossipore-Chitpur Municipality was broken into, and Government Promissory notes, cheques and cash to the value of Rs. 68,181 were stolen. Fortunately almost the whole amount was recovered. In Chapra the accounts of the Municipality were found to have fallen into a state of great confusion, and a special officer was appointed to examine and report on them.

Working of the Porters and Dandiwallas Act.

223. This Act, which was previously in force only in Darjeeling, was extended to Kurseong during the year. The number of porters and dandiwallas registered in Darjeeling declined from 400 and 459 to 187 and 297 respectively. The decrease was, no dobt, due to the Tibet Mission. There were 25 prosecutions against 12 in the previous year. In Kurseong the number of porters and dandiwallas registered was 106, and there were 14 prosecutions.

The Howrah Municipality.

224. The Howrah Municipality demands special notice. The results in the Collection Department are particularly good. The percentage of the total collections to the current demand has indeed fallen from 99·1 to 97·8, but this is due not to any deterioration in the work, but to the fact that the realizable arrears have been reduced to a nominal amount. The outstanding balance which in the year 1898-99 amounted to 50·9 per cent. of the current demand, and in 1903-04 to 12·04 per cent., has now been reduced to 4·5 per cent. The percentage of total collections to the total demand rose from 84·6 in 1903-04 to 87·6 per cent. in the year under review, and that of the current collections to the current demand from 88·7 to 93 per cent. This improvement is attributed by the Chairman to the fact that the taxes are now collected by the Municipal staff and not through the agency of a contractor.

Other branches of the administration are no less satisfactory. The only defect connected with the water-supply is in the distribution mains, for which the present staff are not responsible. The working expenses have been reduced to about one anna per 1,000 gallons, which is the lowest ever recorded in the history of the Municipality. The Sibpur section of the drainage scheme was completed during the year and is working satisfactorily; good progress has been made with the preparation of the detailed estimates for the other sections. As the drainage scheme is extended, steps will be taken to cleanse or fill up the numerous insanitary tanks which are scattered throughout the Municipality. The Commissioners are also dealing with the insanitary and

congested *bastis*, which form a standing menace to the health of the community. A regular programme has been drawn up for improving these *bastis* at the rate of five or six a year. The Conservancy branch line from Lillooah to Belgachia is nearing completion, and should prove a great relief to the overworked trenching ground at Nandibagan. An arrangement has been made with the Calcutta Tramways Company for the introduction of an Electric Tramway Service in Howrah, and it is expected that trams will be running in two years' time. This will no doubt give a great impetus to building in the outskirts of the town, and will relieve the areas which are now congested. It is of the utmost importance that the Commissioners should make provision for this beforehand by a careful alignment of the roads in what are now rural areas, and by laying out the sites of the *bastis* which will soon spring into existence.

THE CALCUTTA MUNICIPALITY.

[The Administration Report of the Calcutta Municipality for the year 1904—1905 : Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India, Section XVII.]

General.

225. The year 1904-05 has been marked by sustained progress in all departments of Municipal activity. The most far-reaching and the most hopeful indication of this is the remarkable increase of interest in the adminstration exhibited by the Commissioners, who have at length realized the importance of the functions assigned by the existing Act to the Corporation. Not only have the Standing Committees maintained their reputation for vigorous and successful work, but every department has been subjected to close examination at the hands of Special Committees of the Corporation. The appointment of Standing Committees to deal with matters connected with the Water-supply, Drainage and Construction has brought the Commissioners into practical touch with the work in progress in these departments, and the success which has attended the work of the existing Standing Committees has led during the current year to a further development of them, from which the best results may be anticipated. If any proof is needed of the reviving interest of the Commissioners, it will be found in the keenness with which last year's Annual Report was debated.

The most important work accomplished during the year was the reorganisation of the Accounts Department. The failure of this Department to exercise efficient control over expenditure, and to forecast accurately financial requirements, had long been a subject of complaint, and had attracted unfavourable notice from both the Supreme and the Local Governments. The salary of the post of Chief Accountant was raised, and a number of inefficient clerks were removed and more capable men took their place, while the staff was increased so as to enable it to deal punctually with current work, and grouped into sections, each under a responsible head. The effect of this measure has been immediately apparent in the punctuality with which the account registers are now written and the balance accounts closed monthly, while the accounts of income are now regularly audited.

Special attention was paid during the year to the loan arrangements of the Corporation. At the instance of the Government of India a complete statement of works to be carried out from borrowed funds was prepared for the first time, and this showed full particulars of the sanction obtained for each work, its total cost and the expenditure which will be required, both during the year under report and in future years, to bring it to completion.

The standards of collection, both of consolidated rates and of license fees, showed marked improvement, and have now been placed on a satisfactory footing. Assessment appeals were punctually decided, and one of the causes which formerly hampered the work of collection was thus removed.

The new Municipal Central Offices were occupied for the first time to the convenience of the public who are engaged in Municipal business as well as of the establishments employed.

General and Special Committees.

226. The Committee met 54 times during the year, the average attendance at each meeting being 9. The corresponding figures for the previous year were 53 and 10. No less than fifty-one Special Committees were appointed

by the Corporation during the year under report, and they held 164 meetings, as compared with thirty-two Special Committees appointed and 89 meetings held in the previous year. The greater interest shown by the Corporation in the management of its affairs was evidenced by a large increase in the number of Special Committees. Excellent work was done by the Squares and the Markets Special Committees. Among other useful Standing Special Committees which deserve special mention are those which dealt with matters relating to loans and the disposal of surplus lands.

Administrative Changes.

227. A large number of bye-laws have been framed during the year under the various clauses of section 559 of the Act. The Corporation has finally approved, and the sanction of the Government of Bengal has been obtained to, those framed under clause 18 (encroachments), clause 40 (control and supervision of butchers), clauses 42, 43 and 44 (disposal of corpses), clause 47 (regulating cremation), and clause 51 (regulating the driving of registered carts). The bye-laws under clause 651 have been found useful, but much overloading of bullock carts still goes on.

The bye-laws framed under clause 2 (scavenging-tax), clauses 9 and 10 (house-drains and privies), clause 11 (materials for drains), clause 12 (construction of drains, etc.), clause 14 (plumbers' qualifications, etc.), clause 26 (stables and cattle-sheds), clause 35 (prevention of cruelty in markets), clause 41 (inspection and regulation of food-shops and stores), clauses 45 and 46 (making and re-opening of graves), clause 48 (general disposal of the dead), clause 52 (regulation of theatres, etc.), and clause 54 (disposal of noxious vegetation) have not yet received the final approval of the Corporation.

Finance.

228. The Revenue Funds, taken together, opened on the 1st April 1904 with an actual credit balance of Rs. 6,23,229, and the total receipts for the year amounted to Rs. 67,29,859, making a total sum of Rs. 73,53,088 to be accounted for. The actual expenditure on revenue account during the year was Rs. 65,23,951, so that the funds closed on the 31st March 1905 with a balance of Rs. 8,29,137. The revenue realised exceeded that of the previous year by Rs. 5,14,679, and was better than the estimate by Rs. 2,60,037. On the other hand, the expenditure only exceeded that of 1903-1904 by Rs. 22,422, and was less than the revised estimate by Rs. 2,69,781. In the result, the closing balance was better than what was anticipated in the revised estimate by Rs. 4,23,097.

The consolidated rate, which was levied at the same figure as in 1903-1904, yielded a larger revenue in 1904-1905 by Rs. 1,91,871, the receipts from taxes on animals and carriages were better by Rs. 15,281, the taxes and licenses on professions, trades and callings realised Rs. 25,525 more than in 1903-1904, the market receipts were better by Rs. 7,249, the slaughter-houses brought in an additional income of Rs. 10,453, the sale of water gave an additional Rs. 15,656, miscellaneous receipts were larger by Rs. 14,898, and miscellaneous fees by Rs. 11,677. Compared with the figures of the previous year, there has been an increase under all the main heads of revenue—a result which is creditable to the departments concerned. It should be noted that, in accordance with the opinion expressed by the Hon'ble the Advocate-General, the profit arising from the purchase and sale of surplus lands, irrespective of the cost of the roads in connection with which the purchase was made, has been credited to the General Revenue Fund: this profit is represented in the accounts by Rs. 1,83,797, the surplus lands sold being those in Lansdowne Road and in Harish Chandra Mukerjee Street.

The actual expenditure for the year, though less than what was anticipated in the revised budget by Rs. 2,69,781, exceeded that of the previous year by Rs. 22,422. Among the items of increased expenditure were Rs. 1,17,032 for interest and Rs. 41,421 for repayment of loans; Rs. 16,441 for law charges, which during the year amounted to Rs. 90,993, as against Rs. 75,552 in the previous year; the gas lighting charges in 1904-1905 were Rs. 78,134 heavier than in the preceding year. These excesses were counterbalanced by savings on numerous minor heads.

Loans.

229. The question of the raising of loans by the Corporation for works of a permanent nature has been the subject of much correspondence during the year between the Government and the Corporation. The Government has prescribed the procedure which they desired the Corporation to follow before

making application for sanction to the raising of a loan. This procedure, which will be followed during the current year, consists in the preparation of a programme of capital expenditure for the ensuing official year to the Government of Bengal in October or November of each year, in order to give ample time for the due consideration of the schemes proposed and for obtaining sanction to the necessary loans.

Assessment Department.

230. The gross assessed valuation of the town on the 31st March 1905 was Rs. 2,68,02,321, a record increase of Rs. 13,55,642 having been registered during the year. The rise in the valuation is remarkable, for ten years ago it was only Rs. 1,98,41,008 and twenty years ago Rs. 1,41,32,130. The total number of buildings and lands revalued was 7,229, the average increase amounting to Rs. 34·36 per cent. The Vice-Chairman continued to deal with the objections from the Northern Wards 1—12, and the Deputy Chairman with those from the Southern Wards 13—25, and the result has been satisfactory. The prompt disposal of objections has reduced the number of supplementary bills, and has lessened work in other ways.

Collector's Department.

231. The standard of collection reached in 1903-1904, high as it undoubtedly was, has been surpassed in the year under review, when the percentage was 96·52 on the gross current demand on account of consolidated rate, or 97·35 after excluding from the demand rate bills under enquiry or revision by the Assessor at the close of the year. The corresponding percentages for the preceding year were 96·14. A portion of the gross demand is known to be unrealisable; and the statistics regarding the net demand, after elimination of the doubtful bills pending with the Assessor for enquiry or amendment, and of the cancellations and remissions on account of vacancy, furnish a more accurate and reliable test of the work of the Department than do the collections of the so-called gross demand. The percentage of collection on the net current demand thus arrived at was 99·43, as against 99·22 in the preceding year, no less a sum than Rs. 47,33,164 having been collected out of a demand of Rs. 47,60,186.

License Department.

232. This Department is justifying the increased expenditure upon its reorganisation. The total collection of Rs. 8,46,501 for the year shows an advance of Rs. 52,255 on the record of the previous year, and an increase of Rs. 1,2,7294 on the collection of the year previous to the reorganisation. The Department has had its sources of revenue considerably curtailed, mainly owing to the opinion of the Advocate-General, which was endorsed by the Corporation, that license fees for offensive trades are payable once for all, and are not leviable annually. This decision deprived the Department of some Rs. 70,000, so that the increase in total collections is the more creditable. Rs. 17,831 were realized from street hawkers, itinerant vendors and market squatters, through the agency of one Inspector and two Sub-Inspectors. The increase under this head is only Rs. 654, as compared with the work of last year, but the direct result of the measure has been to increase the number of petty shop-keepers by discouraging hawking in the streets. The collection of taxes on carriages and horses shows some improvement, although the increasing popularity of the electric tramway service and the motor car are certainly reducing the use of carriages drawn by horses. In the Cart Registration Branch there has been an increase of Rs. 3,375, as compared with last year. The Department continued to collect license fees from jute warehouses under the Fire Brigade Act with satisfactory results. The perpetual audit by the Accounts Department has been introduced since the close of the year, and is being worked in such a manner as to constitute a daily check upon the receipts of this department.

Water-supply.

233. The question of improving the water-supply of Calcutta is without doubt the most important and urgent question now before the Corporation. Early in the year under report, the Corporation sanctioned a scheme for the installation of pumps at Pulta, which would put a pressure of 15 feet upon the pipes which convey the water from Pulta to Tallah, and would thus increase the daily supply by 6 million gallons of water, at a cost of somewhat less than one lakh of rupees. The installation has been completed during the current year. Meanwhile, the extension of the constant supply area was interrupted from March until October, owing to the scarcity of water, but it was then resumed. The total population supplied under the continuous system at

the end of the year exceeded 300,000, as compared with 200,000 at the beginning of the year. The average daily consumption was 26·8 gallons; it is not expected that the consumption can be reduced much below this figure. As it was found impracticable to carry out the conversion throughout the town and added area within the statutory period prescribed by section 241 of the Municipal Act, a representation was made to Government, with the result that an extension of two years has been allowed.

The total quantity of filtered water pumped and supplied during the year amounted to 7,631 million gallons, which is equivalent to an average daily supply of 21·7 gallons per head. To this must be added a supply of unfiltered water of 6,084 million gallons, which is equivalent to 22·5 gallons per head of the population supplied.

234. The title "Suburban Drainage" is somewhat misleading, as the works now in progress will deal, not only with the sewage of the suburbs, but also with the sewage and storm-water of the town proper. The entire scheme may, in fact, be considered as forming two separate projects. As regards the town, that is the area bounded on the south and east by Lower Circular Road and west by the Hooghly, provision is being made for a more efficient outfall for the sewage and storm-water— Suburban. Drainage.

(1) By increasing the pumping power at Palmer's Bridge, so as to enable the pumps to deal, not only with the whole of the town sewage (which they could not do before), but also with a portion of the flush water, or in the alternative with part of the storm-water.

(2) A new head-cut has been made from Palmer's Bridge, running south-eastwards to join the new suburban high level sewer; this will replace the former high level sewer which ran nearly due east into the old central channel, and ultimately found an exit into the Khanobaria Khal.

(3) A huge storm-water reservoir, to hold 52 million cubic feet, has been constructed, with two exits through roller gates, one at Mukalpotta and the other at Byntollah: this reservoir is designed to prevent the sewers from becoming tide-locked, and thus to enable them constantly to discharge their full capacity.

In this way it is hoped that the flooding of the streets, which has hitherto been such a serious inconvenience, may be avoided in future.

All these works are designed to improve the outfall of the sewage and storm-water from the town proper, but, in addition to these, a complete scheme has been developed for the sewerage of the greater part of the suburbs, which are bounded on the north and west by the Circular Road, on the west by the Kidderpore Docks, on the south by the Boat Canal and the southern boundary of Calcutta, on the east by the eastern boundary of the city, and on the north by Balliaghata, the last-named being provided for under a separate scheme. The only areas within these boundaries not yet dealt with under this scheme are the comparatively thinly populated tracts on the southern and eastern limits of Calcutta.

The works include a complete sewerage system, with branches, extending from the Docks on the west to Ballygunge, where the sewage is to be pumped into the new suburban high level sewer; it will thence find an exit by the combined sewage channel through the suburban storm-water reservoir and the suburban sluice gates into the Bidyadhari river. The outfall works include a pumping station at Ballygunge, the suburban high level sewer, the combined sewage channel, the suburban head-cut, the suburban storm-water reservoir and the sluice gates. In order to lift the sewage from the low-lying areas on the western extremity of the system in the neighbourhood of the Docks, the Budge-Budge pumping station has been constructed, and it is further necessary to cross Tolly's Nullah by a syphon which has yet to be built. The suburban sewage system includes—main sewer No. 1, which runs from the northern extremity of the Docks to the Budge-Budge pumping station, and thence to the Ballygunge pumping station; main sewer No. 2, which starts at a point on the east bank of Tolly's Nullah about three-quarters of a mile north of the site of the future syphon, and runs roughly parallel to main sewer No. 1 as far as the Ballygunge *Maidan*, after which it empties itself into the silt-pits of the

Ballygunge pumping station; and main sewers Nos. 4 and 5, which serve the area north of Ballygunge and east of the Lower Circular Road.

Road repairs. 235. Special attention has been given during the year to the work of road repairs. The costly moorum, which had recently been used as blindage, was abandoned, building rubbish being substituted for it. A new method of laying the blindage was introduced by the Chief Engnieer, part of the blindage being now mixed with the road metal before consolidation commences and during consolidation, and the remainder being swept into the interstices of the metal while rolling is in progress. The results were satisfactory, as a smoother surface was produced and the blindage was more thoroughly worked in with the metal. During the year the Corporation spent Rs. 3,98,181 on the work of road repairs, including footpaths (which under the new system are dressed or otherwise attended to in conjunction with the repairs of the roads), as compared with Rs. 4,72,466 in the previous year. The reduction in expenditure is partly due to the discontinuance of the use of moorum as blindage (which cost Rs. 52,106 in 1903-1904), and partly to the failure of certain contractors to adhere to their engagements.

Public Health. 236. The year 1904-1905 was a comparatively healthy one for Calcutta, as the death-rate was only 30 per mille of the estimated population residing within Municipal limits, plague being responsible for 5·5 of this mortality. Cholera claimed about the same number of victims as in 1903-1904, and was specially bad in April and May, not only in Calcutta, but throughout the Province. There is reason to believe that this disease is preventible in Calcutta, and that it will decline as soon as an abundant supply of filtered water is available in all parts of the town. The deaths from small-pox, dysentery and diarrhœa were fewer in number than in the previous year, and Dr. Cook reiterates the statement made in his last annual report that malarial fever is diminishing in Calcutta year by year. On the other hand tuberculosis has increased in the town, the total number of deaths from this cause during the year being 1,608—nearly 8 per cent. of the total mortality.

The birth-rate was 17·9 per mille of the population, according to the Census of 1901, as against 15·7 last year. A marked improvement is noticeable in the returns from District I, where registration by peripatetic Sub-Registrars has been introduced as an experimental measure, preparatory to its adoption, if successful, throughout the town. The figures are 50 per cent. better in this district than they were five years ago. A proposal to extend this system throughout the town is now before the Corporation.

The reorganization of the Vaccination Department has resulted in some improvement during the year, the number of vaccinations performed having increased by 37 per cent. over the figures of the previous year.

The Municipal Laboratory has done excellent work during the year. The weekly analysis of drinking-water taken from the collecting wells of the after-beds at Pulta gave satisfactory results, and the examinations of the gas supply made regularly throughout the year show that the Gas Company have fulfilled their obligations in regard to the quality and pressure of the gas, although, as stated elsewhere, the lighting of the streets was generally unsatisfactory. Much useful bacteriological work has been done in the analysis of adulterated food-stuffs. Useful work was done by the Sanitary and Food Inspectors.

Markets. 237. The Sir Stuart Hogg Market is one of the most valuable assets of the Corporation. The total income during the year was Rs. 2,36,087, showing an advance of Rs. 9,280 on the figures of the preceding year. This excellent result is largely attributable to the efforts of the Markets Special Committee, whose members deserve the thanks of the Corporation for their zeal in promoting the welfare of the market.

Hospitals and Dispensaries. 238. The Corporation has continued to contribute Rs. 35,000 a year towards the maintenance of the Campbell Hospital, and they have expressed a desire to be represented on the Governing Board of that Institution. The Shambhu Nath Pandit's Hospital and Dispensary has received a Municipal grant-in-aid of Rs. 5,000, and the Chetla Dispensary one of Rs. 971. Assistance has also been granted to various institutions in the shape of remission of the consolidated rate, or of grants equivalent to the rates payable by those institutions, to the extent of Rs. 13,600-5, making the total contribution of the Corporation towards hospitals and dispensaries Rs. 54,571-5.

239. At the commencement of the year, Calcutta was suffering from the now annual outbreak of plague, which fortunately proved to be much less severe than in previous years. The incidence of the disease, and its course generally, were very much the same as in former years. Plague.

Puri Lodging-house Act.

[The Reports from the Commissioners of Divisions on the working of the Puri Lodging-house Act, IV (B.C.) of 1871, as amended by Acts II (B.C.) of 1879 and I (B.C.) of 1884, during the year 1904-1905, in the various places to which it has been extended.]

240. During the year 1904-1905 the Act was extended to the town of Naihati in the district of the 24-Parganas, to the villages of Khandiabund and Rautarapur in the district of Puri, and to a portion of the village Moranpore in the district of Gaya. A small amendment was made in the Model Rules of Business framed under section 38 of the Act to provide for the appointment of the members of Lodging-house Committees by Commissioners of Divisions instead of by the Lieutenant-Governor. Working of the Act.

241. The number of licensed lodging-houses fell from 2,045 in 1903-1904 to 1,842, but the number of persons for whom accommodation was provided was about the same, viz., 67,328 against 67,863. There was a smaller attendance of pilgrims at Sitakund, where the previous year had been unusually auspicious for pilgrimage. On the other hand there was an increased attendance at Gaya, and the number of persons for whom accommodation was provided rose from 26,055 to 28,180. The variations elsewhere were unimportant. Licensed lodging-houses.

242. The income of the funds during the year was Rs. 79,557, which is larger by Rs. 9,830 than that of the previous year, if the munificent gift of Rs. 33,648 made in that year by Babu Kanai Lall Bogla of Calcutta for the construction of a rest-house at Puri be left out of account. The increase is due principally to the larger attendance of pilgrims and stricter supervision of lodging-houses at Gaya, where the license fees rose from Rs. 26,287 to Rs. 28,306 and the fines from Rs. 730 to Rs. 4,962. The total expenditure was Rs. 1,01,990 against Rs. 1,01,708, and the closing balance was reduced from Rs. 58,030 to Rs. 35,533. The Puri Fund has, in addition to its closing balance of Rs. 4,910, a sum of Rs. 30,000 invested in Government promissory notes. Income and expenditure.

243. The health of the pilgrims was generally good, and there was no serious outbreak of epidemic disease. In Puri, there was a most gratifying absence of cholera, the total number of persons admitted to hospital on account of this disease being only 46. Much, however, remains to be done for the sanitation of this town before it can be considered free from all danger of a cholera epidemic. Reform is required in respect of drainage, water-supply and the introduction of an improved type of private latrine. A scheme for the drainage of the town was completed during the year, and has been carefully considered by the local authorities. A small committee has now been appointed to decide finally as to the site for the main outfall and the treatment of the existing Baradand drains. As soon as these details are settled, work will be commenced and continued as funds permit. A rough scheme for the provision of a pure water-supply has been prepared by the Sanitary Engineer, but want of funds seems likely to delay its introduction. The Health Officer has been successful in securing the provision of impervious latrines in all the lodging-houses, and in this way the danger of pollution to the well-water has been minimized. The Commissioner of Orissa has under his consideration a proposal to increase the rate at which the license fees are levied, in order to meet the heavy expenditure entailed by the drainage and water-supply schemes. The submission of his report is awaited. Public health and water-supply.

District Boards.

[The Reports from the Commissioners of Divisions on the working of the District Boards in Bengal during the year 1904-1905: Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India, Section XVIII.]

244. The number of District Boards remained unchanged. A new Local Board was established in the reconstituted Barrackpore subdivision, but its Number of District Boards.

effective existence dates from the commencement of the current year. The Union Committee at Binodepur, in Jessore, was abolished and a new one was established at Kotalpur in Bankura. The number of Local Boards is now 105 and of Union Committees 58.

Constitution of District Boards.

245. The constitution of the District Boards was practically the same as in the previous year. The number of meetings held was 625, a decrease of ten. The number of meetings which were adjourned or proved abortive for want of a quorum fell from 54 to 35, the lowest number yet recorded. The average attendance of members was the same as in 1903-04, a slight improvement in the attendance of official members being counterbalanced by a falling off on the part of non-officials. The Saran District Board held the largest number of meetings (30). All Boards held at least twelve meetings, except those of Hazaribagh (6), Palamau (8) and Manbhum (8),—all in the Chota Nagpur Division. The usual explanation is given that more meetings were not required. Distances are great in Chota Nagpur, and there are practically no railways. The number of meetings is thus necessarily smaller than in other parts of the Province.

Union Committees.

246. The income of the Union Committees rose from Rs. 17,985 to Rs. 19,699. Their expenditure was Rs. 18,322, or about the same as in the previous year. Thirty Unions spent the whole, or nearly the whole, of the funds placed at their disposal. The best results are shown by the four Union Committees in Howrah and by two in the Noakhali district, all of which levied small sums by means of local taxation under section 118 of the Act. The total amount thus raised in these six Unions was Rs. 583. This sum, though small in itself, represents a distinct move in the right direction; and it exceeds considerably the aggregate taxation of all previous years since the Union Committees were first constituted. There is thus some ground for the hope that the spirit of self-help is growing, and that the people are beginning to realize that taxation is a necessary preliminary to effective administration. The Unions in the Orissa Division remained in the state of suspended animation in which they have continued for the last few years; and the Memari and Keshabpur Unions in Burdwan and Jessore were equally inactive.

Financial results.

247. The District Boards began the year with an opening balance of Rs. 24,00,169. The total income amounted to Rs. 79,62,577 and the total expenditure to Rs. 81,39,279, leaving a closing balance of Rs. 22,23,466.

248. The following statements show the principal heads of income and expendtiure during the last two years:—

INCOME.

	1903-1904.	1904-1905.
	Rs.	Rs.
Provincial Rates	44,78,981	46,54,491
Interest	43,696	43,683
Police (including pounds)	4,93,423	4,90,126
Education	89,351	78,246
Medical	65,312	60,620
Scientific and other minor Departments ...	20,584	18,144
Stationery and Printing	804	1,673
Miscellaneous	1,95,330	2,27,320
Railways	.....	.....
Irrigation—Minor Works and Navigation	20,131	19,946
Civil Works (including Ferries) ...	14,22,441	8,42,042
Contributions	10,53,195	10,31,313
Deposits and Advances	5,19,640	4,94,973
Total under above and all other heads ...	84,02,888	79,62,577

EXPENDITURE.

	1903-1904.	1904-1905.
	Rs.	Rs.
Administration	3,11,396	3,10,292
Police (Pounds)	28,416	26,158
Marine	8,216	8,007
Education	18,19,584	18,27,203
Medical	4,09,277	4,30,904
Scientific and other Departments ...	48,659	48,547
Superannuation Allowances and Pensions	32,025	32,290
Stationery and Printing	40,569	44,131
Miscellaneous	42,322	77,067
Famine Relief	30	3,007
Civil Works	48,72,292	46,77,574
Contributions	62,975	63,745
Debt	6,24,163	5,70,875
Interest on Debt	22,230	18,216
Total under above and all other heads ...	83,23,188	81,39,279

INCOME.

Provincial rates.

249. The receipts under this head increased by Rs. 1,75,510. The rise was shared by all Divisions, except Orissa, where there was a slight falling off, due to poor collections in Cuttack and Puri.

The road cess is the only source of the Boards' income which has shown a steady and continuous expansion. The increment in the year under review was more than double the average of the previous decade. It is not likely, however, that this rate of progress will be maintained, nor could its continuance be regarded as healthy. The cess is already levied at the maximum rate allowed by law, and any further increase must be due either to more accurate assessment or to higher rents. There is now little room for improvement under the former head; and it is not in the public interest that there should be a general enhancement of the existing rates of rent. The income under this head was almost the same as last year.

Police.

250. The income from pounds shows a slight decline of Rs. 3,297. The state of matters described in the divisional reports is far from satisfactory. The number of pounds has been largely increased in recent years; but the revenue is inelastic or decreasing, the supervision is defective, and the pound buildings are often quite unsuitable. In the Dacca and Chittagong Divisions the number of pounds has risen during the last fourteen years by 49 and 42 per cent. respectively, but, in spite of this, the income shows a considerable decline. Similar results have occurred elsewhere also; and the only possible explanation is that adequate steps have not been taken to safeguard the revenue by duly advertizing the sales, by breaking up combinations amongst the farmers, and by managing pounds *khas* in cases where sufficient bids are not forthcoming—in short by taking measures similar to those which have been adopted so successfully in the case of excise shops. The large outstanding balances in many districts afford additional evidence of lax administration. In Howrah and Dacca, these balances actually exceeded the income for the year, and the arrears were also very large in the districts of Midnapore, Jalpaiguri, Shahabad, Puri and Manbhum. In many cases large irrecoverable demands have accumulated simply because prompt steps have not been taken to resell pounds in default. A most serious instance of mal-administration recently came to notice in the district of Dacca, where, owing to the neglect of the most elementary precautions, defalcations on a large scale went on for years before they were detected. It is clear that the whole system of pound administration requires careful examination. Commissioners of Divisions are requested to give this matter their best attention during the

rest of the current year and to notice the result of their enquiries in their next annual report.

Education. 251. The Educational receipts declined by Rs. 11,105. The decrease occurred mainly under the sub-head "Miscellaneous," and was due to the abolition of the Lower Primary Scholarship Examination and the consequent loss of fees.

Medical. 252. Owing to a decrease of Rs. 8,426 under "Miscellaneous," the receipts were less than those of the previous year by Rs. 4,692. There was an increase of Rs. 3,329 under the head "Contributions," which includes both Government grants and subscriptions from the public.

Miscellaneous. 253. The income under this head increased by Rs. 31,990. These receipts are of a fluctuating character, and the variation does not call for any special remarks. The share of the surplus profits of the Howrah-Amta and Howrah-Sheakhala Light Railways received by the Howrah and Hooghly District Boards increased by Rs. 3,533 and Rs. 2,079, respectively, while the Patna District Board received for the first time a sum of Rs. 10,616 as its share of the surplus profits of the Bihar-Bakhtearpur Light Railway.

Civil Works. 254. The year under review was the first of the new Provincial Settlement, and it was found necessary to withdraw temporarily the Government subvention of five lakhs which had been given annually to the District Boards since 1901-02. The special grants for feeder roads aggregated only Rs. 78,000, against Rs. 2,71,717 in the previous year; but, on the other hand, grants amounting to Rs. 53,000 were given for the first time for the improvement of the water-supply. The receipts on account of tolls from ferries showed an increase of Rs. 38,137. The net result of these changes was a decrease of Rs. 5,80,399 in the Boards' income under "Civil Works."

The receipts from ferries rose in twenty-five districts and fell in sixteen. The largest gains occurred in Dacca and Saran, where they were due to large arrear collections; in Darbhanga, Monghyr and Muzaffarpur, owing to good collections and favourable settlements; and in Malda, owing to the transfer of nine Government ferries to the District Board in lieu of part of the fixed Government grant. The opening of the Bengal-Nagpur Railway has reduced the receipts in Bankura and Midnapore, while in Patna they have declined owing to competition with the Railway and Steamer Companies. The construction of new bridges on the sites of existing ferries has hitherto been hindered, not only by the cost of erecting them, but also by the resulting loss of the ferry revenue. This obstacle in the way of improving communications will to a great extent be removed, so far as the cost of construction is concerned, by a clause in the Bill to amend the Local Self-Government Act, III of 1885, which provides that a Board may levy tolls on a new bridge until the expenses of construction, and the interest thereon at 4 per cent., together with the capitalized cost of maintenance, have been recovered.

Loans. 255. The District Board of Dinajpur received a sum of Rs. 25,000 as a loan from Government for the construction of bridges.

Deposits and Advances. 256. The receipts increased by Rs. 25,333, but the variations call for no remark.

EXPENDITURE.

Administration. 257. The cost of office establishment increased by Rs. 2,450, while contingencies were less by Rs. 4,168, the net decrease being Rs. 1,104. The changes were unimportant.

Police. 258. The decrease of Rs. 2,258 was shared by most districts and does not call for comment.

Education. 259. The total amount disbursed on education exceeded that of the previous year by Rs. 7,619. The expenditure on inspection increased by Rs. 10,644, on Training and Special Schools by Rs. 4,086, and on Scholarships by Rs. 7,113, while there was a decrease of Rs. 29,761 under "Miscellaneous." The number of aided high schools shows an increase of three, and there were nineteen more middle schools. The number of upper primary schools receiving aid rose from 4,101 to 4,126, but there was a decrease of 446 lower primary schools and of 28,827 pupils in such schools. This decrease occurred in six Divisions, and was particularly noticeable in Bhagalpur and Chittagong,

where it amounted to 16 and 10 per cent., respectively. It is satisfactory to observe that the number of girls under instruction in primary schools increased by 8,073.

Special Schools.

260. Technical schools are maintained by the District Boards of Burdwan, Midnapore, Rangpur, Pabna and Mymensingh, Industrial schools by the District Boards of Balasore, Ranchi and Hazaribagh, an Artisan school by the Tippera Board, and Sericultural schools at Rampur Boalia and Sabong by the Rajshahi and Midnapore Boards, respectively. A new Technical school, towards which the local Coronation Committee contributed Rs. 6,000, was opened at Khulna in February 1905, and the District Board of Monghyr have resolved to devote Rs. 600 annually towards the upkeep of a Technical school in that district. On the other hand the Midnapore Technical School has not been very successful, and it is proposed to affiliate it with the neighbouring Collegiate school. The Malda Board have sanctioned the establishment of a weaving and dyeing school, and the construction of the building will shortly be taken in hand. In Hazaribagh an Industrial school was abolished, while two such schools were established in Manbhum. The seri-agricultural school at Sabong, which was established in the previous year, has not yet received much support, but the teacher also gives instruction in his special subjects to the students of the Sabong Middle English school. An experimental pottery class was opened in Nadia under a student who was trained at the Board's expense in the Bombay School of Art, but the work produced was not of good quality, and the scheme has been abandoned. The other special schools mentioned above continue to do good work. Many of the Boards grant scholarships to students studying in the Sibpur College, the Bihar School of Engineering, and the Veterinary College at Belgachia.

Something is being done in most districts to develop technical and industrial education, but the results are meagre, and there is almost infinite room for expansion. The support received from the public in this direction is surprisingly small, considering the importance which they profess to attach to the development of native industries.

Industrial development.

261. The progress which has hitherto been made in the introduction of the fly-shuttle loom is somewhat discouraging. Only six of the Commissioners have referred to the subject in their reports for the year under review. In last year's Resolution reference was made to the invention in Darbhanga of an arrangement by which the fly-shuttle can be adapted to the ordinary country loom, thereby obviating the difficulty caused by the high price of the improved loom. The cost of altering a country loom in this way is said to be less than Rs. 7, while the outturn is almost equal to that of the ordinary fly-shuttle loom. If so, it is difficult to understand why the efforts of the Board to popularize the invention have met with such little success. Copies of the report on the subject received from Darbhanga will be circulated to other District Boards with a view to experiments being made elsewhere.

Useful industrial and agricultural exhibitions were held at Khulna, Rangpur and Monghyr, and at Brahmanbaria in Tippera. At Rangpur the working of the fly-shuttle loom was explained; experiments were made with agricultural implements brought from America, and a simple process of butter-making was demonstrated. An exhibition of the arts and industries of Bihar was held in connection with the Sonepur Fair, at which specimens of wood-carving, carpets, stoneware, glassware, muslins and ironware were shown. A cattle-show was held at Comilla, but proved a failure.

Medical.

262. The expenditure under this head increased by Rs. 21,627. The outlay on hospitals and dispensaries rose by Rs. 31,746, but that on sanitation and vaccination showed a decrease of Rs. 7,628 and that under "Miscellaneous" of Rs. 2,820. The number of dispensaries maintained by the Boards rose from 194 to 200, and the number of aided dispensaries from 227 to 233. Three new dispensaries were opened in Burdwan, two each in Nadia and Mymensingh, and one each in Rangpur, Shahabad, Darbhanga and Bhagalpur. One aided dispensary in Birbhum and one in Jessore were brought under direct management, while in Gaya two dispensaries which were previously maintained by the Board were transferred to the aided class, and one, in Malda, to the Local Municipality. Four dispensaries were closed (in Backergunge, Monghyr, Purnea and Puri).

In several districts endeavours are being made to supplement the work of the regular dispensaries by other measures designed to bring medical relief more directly to the homes of the people. The system of supplying medicine chests to the village headmen, which has been tried in Backergunge, has not proved very successful. Greater success has attended the employment in Khulna and Birbhum of itinerant doctors whose duty it is to visit the local markets and travel from village to village. This system may with great advantage be tried in other districts. Steps should also be taken to increase the utility of dispensary doctors by arranging for them to visit on market days any *hâts* that there may be within a reasonable distance of their dispensaries and also some of the larger villages in their neighbourhood. The floating dispensary in Faridpur has proved a great success. It is, of course, most important, in the case of these dispensaries, and also in that of itinerant doctors, that the places to be visited and the dates of each visit should be definitely fixed and notified beforehand.

Sanitation.

263. The expenditure shown in the accounts as incurred for sanitary purposes fell from Rs. 32,380 to Rs. 26,313. The sanitary work done by the Boards is of a somewhat varied character. It includes preventive measures against plague, cholera and other epidemic diseases, sanitary arrangements at fairs and *mêlas*, anti-malarial operations, and experiments in village sanitation, such as the clearance of jungle, the excavation of road-side drains and the filling up of hollows containing stagnant water. During the past four years the Patna District Board has been working on a regular scheme for cleansing villages and rural towns by the removal of filth and rank vegetation, the filling up of ditches and the like. In pursuance of this scheme, the Sadar, Bihar and Dinapore Local Boards cleansed, in all, 215 insanitary villages at an aggregate cost of Rs. 1,267, while the Barh Local Board spent Rs. 633 in improving the drainage of two non-municipal towns. Other districts have followed the example of Patna, but without as yet much tangible result. The best work appears to have been done in the Contai subdivision of Midnapore, where a sum of Rs. 300, supplemented by local contributions of the same amount, was spent in cleaning up 20 villages. The Boards have hitherto had little money to spare for village sanitation, nor have they the establishment required for local supervision.

Veterinary charges.

264. According to the returns 33 District Boards incurred expenditure on veterinary work against 25 in the previous year; while the total charges increased by Rs. 5,016. The figures, however, cannot be relied upon; a sum of Rs. 4,480 was wrongly entered under other heads in the previous year, while in the year under review no expenditure under this head is shown in Noakhali, Patna and Dacca, though it is clear from the reports that money is being spent on veterinary objects. The Veterinary Assistants continued to prove their utility in combating outbreaks of cattle-disease, and the public are learning to appreciate their services. In several districts work was hampered by the difficulty of obtaining qualified men. Steps are being taken to overcome this obstacle, and the Boards themselves are assisting by granting scholarships in the Veterinary College.

Civil Works.

265. The total expenditure under this head was less by Rs. 1,94,718 than in 1903-04. This is more than accounted for by a falling off of Rs. 2,20,666 under "Communications—Original works." The decrease under that sub-head was most marked in Mymensingh (Rs. 58,713), Backergunge (Rs. 41,438), Muzaffarpur (Rs. 61,965) and Midnapore (Rs. 50,584). In some cases the result is ascribed to the temporary withdrawal of the Government grant for the improvement of communications; but while this is no doubt responsible for the decline in some districts, it can hardly have affected the total figures for the Province. The unspent balances of the grants of previous years amounted on the 1st April 1904 to more than four lakhs, and the special grants for feeder roads made during the last three months of 1903-04 exceeded two lakhs. The decrease seems rather to be due to the failure of some Boards to work up to their sanctioned programmes.

Water-supply and Water-works.

266. An offer was made during the year by Government to contribute one-third of the cost of all works for the improvement of the village water-supply, up to a maximum of Rs. 5,000 in any one district, or Rs. 50,000 in the whole

Province. This offer met with a ready response in some districts, but not in others. No applications at all were received from the Rajshahi and Patna Divisions. The limit of Rs. 5,000 for a district was eventually waived; and when all applications had been granted, the total amount of the Government contributions in Board districts was Rs. 53,026. Of this sum, no less than Rs. 33,184 was received by the districts in the Presidency Division, Nadia and Jessore getting Rs. 10,000 each and Khulna Rs. 7,300. In the 24-Parganas many of the contributions promised by the villagers have since been withdrawn, and the Board are now unable to spend the Government grant. In most cases, owing to the delay in obtaining promises of assistance from the public, the grants were made very late in the year, and are, therefore, being expended during the current year. This accounts for the fact that in several districts the Boards were unable to spend the whole amount provided in their budgets for water-supply, but it is disappointing to find that the total expenditure was less by Rs. 13,096 than in the previous year.

Drainage works.

267. The re-excavation of the Khurda khal in the 24-Parganas was completed, the expenditure during the year amounting to Rs. 1,927. The great Magrahat-Usti drainage project in the same district has been adopted by the Board and will be carried out under the Sanitary Drainage Act. It affects 290 square miles of country. The estimated cost of the scheme is Rs. 17,39,000, towards which Government has contributed Rs. 5,00,000. In Hooghly the excavation of the old river Kausiki, for which the late Babu Bama Charan Bhur offered a contribution of Rs. 30,000, is under consideration, and will probably be carried out with the assistance of Government and the District Board. No progress has been made with the scheme for the drainage of the Chalan Beel on the borders of Pabna and Rajshahi. The Drainage Commissioners who were appointed to consider the project are opposed to it, mainly on the score of expense. A smaller scheme for the drainage of the Cheroil Beel in Pabna has been drawn up, and this work will probably be carried out.

Roads.

268. The length of metalled roads has increased by 75, and that of unmetalled roads by 132, miles. The length of village roads has decreased by 167 miles. The expenditure on the repairs of metalled roads was nearly eight lakhs; in the case of unmetalled roads it exceeded nine lakhs; while for village roads it was rather less than three lakhs. The average expenditure per mile on repairs was Rs. 288 for metalled, Rs. 37 for unmetalled, and Rs. 14 for village, roads. In the case of metalled roads the cost varied from Rs. 678 in the Chittagong Division to Rs. 116 in Chota Nagpur. In the case of unmetalled (including village) roads there is less variation; in seven Divisions the cost was between Rs. 20 and Rs. 27, but it rose to Rs. 40 in the Dacca and to Rs. 52 in the Chittagong Divisions. The expenditure on original works connected with metalled roads exceeded three lakhs, while over eleven lakhs was expended on unmetalled, and more than half a lakh on village, roads. The largest expenditure under the former head was incurred by the District Board of Rajshahi and, under the latter, by Rangpur.

Railway Feeder Roads.

269. The great progress which has been made in recent years in the extension of railways has completely altered the conditions which formerly existed in the matter of communication by road. Some of the old roads have been largely superseded by the railways, while many new ones have had to be made in order to connect the railway stations with the country behind them. The construction of these new roads has thrown a heavy burden on the resources of the District Boards, which, if unaided, they would have been quite unable to bear. In the years 1901-02 to 1903-04 an annual grant of five lakhs was given from Provincial funds to augment the general income of the Boards, and special grants aggregating Rs. 4,78,000 were made for the construction of specified feeder roads. In the year under review a further sum of Rs. 78,000 was given for feeder roads. It was found impossible to renew the grant of five lakhs, but at the commencement of the year the Boards still had in hand an unspent balance of more than four lakhs from the grants previously made. The total expenditure on feeder roads during the year amounted to Rs. 3,43,000. The Howrah District Board spent Rs. 20,065 in constructing and improving eight feeder roads to the Bengal-Nagpur Railway and Rs. 3,540 on five roads leading to the Howrah-Amta Light Railway. The District Board of

the 24-Parganas expended Rs. 25,019 in improving and metalling two roads which serve as feeders to the Barasat-Basirhat Light Railway and completed, at a cost of Rs. 18,044, the road from Bawali to the Budge-Budge Railway station. In Monghyr Rs. 31,346 was spent on four feeder roads to the South Bihar Railway. In Khulna Rs. 14,822 was spent on metalling the Satkhira-Bhamra road. A good deal of work was done in Palamau, Rangpur and Dinajpur.

Miscellaneous Public Improvements.

270. Excluding the Rajshahi Division, for which no details are given, the expenditure on roadside arboriculture was Rs. 42,602, or rather more than in the previous year. The outlay varied from Rs. 4,601 in Gaya and Rs. 4,408 in Monghyr to Rs. 107 in Champaran and nothing at all in Chittagong. The question of providing for the carrying out of this important work in a more regular and systematic way has recently been under consideration, and detailed instructions will be issued shortly. The rules as to working-plans will be revised and a short manual will be prepared for the guidance of the Boards. The divisional reports do not show what income was derived from roadside trees. This should be stated in future years. Full information should also be given as to the progress made in each district.

Railways and Tramways.

271. Four Light Railways constructed under the guarantee of District Boards are now in existence. The Howrah-Amta line has proved by far the most successful, and the Board's share of the surplus profits during the year amounted to Rs. 34,823. The Champadanga extension of this line has now been opened as far as Autpur. The Howrah-Seakhala line also shows an improvement on the results of the previous year, the Hooghly District Board receiving Rs. 3,706 as its share of the net profits. The Bakhtearpur-Bihar Light Railway, which was opened in July 1903, had a prosperous year, and was able to pay the Patna District Board Rs. 10,616 as its share of the profits. The Light Railway from Baraset to Basirhat in the 24-Parganas was opened for traffic on the 1st February 1905, and its extension to Taki is now under consideration. The Ranaghat-Krishnagar Light Railway in Nadia was acquired by Government in July 1904, and the Board have been relieved of future charges on account of the guaranteed interest, towards which Rs. 13,014 was paid during the year.

Undeterred by their previous experience, the Nadia District Board have undertaken a survey for a tramway from Krishnagar to Jalanghi *viâ* Meherpur. The District Board of Khulna has abandoned the project of a Light Railway from Khulna to Bagirhat in view of the fact that the Alaipur Khal is to be re-opened; they are, however, anxious to arrange for the extension of the Baraset-Basirhat Light Railway from Basirhat to Satkhira. In Dacca no progress has been made with the scheme for a steam tramway from Dacca to Sealo. Projects for Light Railways are under consideration in Shahabad, Saran, Darbhanga and Monghyr.

Closing balance.

272. The actual closing balances of the Boards, excluding deposits, amounted to Rs. 20,28,608, against Rs. 21,88,434 at the end of 1903-04—a decrease of Rs. 1,59,826. The balances exceeded one lakh in Midnapore, Nadia, Backergunge, Gaya and Darbhanga. These large balances are due to the failure of the Boards to work up to their sanctioned programmes, and efforts should be made to reduce them. In Bankura, on the other hand, owing to short road-cess collections, there was no closing balance at all, while in Dinajpur it was only Rs. 8,291.

Amendment of the Bengal Local Self-Government Act.

273. Owing to the large number of additional amendments which have been found necessary, it has not been possible to proceed with the Bill to amend the Local Self-Government Act, 1885, which was introduced in Council in March 1904. The sanction of the Government of India to the inclusion of these further amendments has been applied for. Amongst other things it is proposed to provide for the formal delegation to Commissioners of certain powers which are at present exercised by the Local Government in accordance with their recommendations and the improvement of the position of Union Committees.

When the District Boards were formed in 1887 they inherited from their predecessors—the District Road Cess Committees—the work and the revenue of those bodies, the principal source of income being the road cess.

At the same time, to enable them to meet the new duties which were imposed upon them, principally in connection with education, the entire receipts under the Cattle Trespass Act and the income from certain ferries were transferred to them from the provincial account, any excess of expenditure over income being made good by a fixed grant from Government. It was believed that the revenue from pounds and ferries was susceptible of considerable improvement, and that, from the expansion of the income under those heads, the Boards would be able to provide for the medical needs of their districts and for other local requirements. These anticipations have only partially been fulfilled; and, while the gain from ferries has been substantial, the increase under pounds has been trifling. The road cess, it is true, has shown a steady expansion, the average annual increment during the last decade being Rs. 85,000, but this is not sufficient to meet the growing demand for improved communications, and especially for feeder roads. For several years the resources of the Boards were augmented by an annual grant of five lakhs from Provincial revenues, but it was found necessary to discontinue this grant in the year under review. The Government of India has now increased the provincial assignment by twelve and-a-half lakhs, in order to permit of an annual grant to District Boards of sums amounting in the aggregate to one-fourth of their receipts from road cess. A new and growing source of income has thus been placed at their disposal, and they will at last be in a position to make adequate provision for their various needs, not only in respect of roads and bridges, but also in other directions. They will be able to take up veterinary work, where they have not already done so, and to increase their expenditure on schools and hospitals and on water-supply and sanitation.

Volunteering.

274. The Volunteer Corps in existence in Bengal during 1903 were the same as in the previous year. Their enrolled strength was 6,767 on the active list and 59 reservists. During the year sanction was given for the formation of a cadet section of volunteers composed of boys belonging to the Colonial Homes at Kalimpong. This cadet section will be attached to the Infantry Company and form part of the Bengal Mounted Rifles.

Marine.

[Financial and Commercial Statistics of British India—Section XXXII.]

[The information contained in the Chapter below has been obtained partly from the correspondence with the officers and public bodies with whom the Marine Department is concerned, and partly from certain Reports which are annually submitted to that Department. The Reports consulted are as follows :—

Annual Report of the Port Officer of Calcutta for the year 1904-1905.
Report on the working of the Shipping offices at Calcutta and at the Ports of Orissa and Chittagong for the year 1904-1905.
Annual Report of the Health Officer of the Port of Calcutta for 1904.
Administration Report of the Port Commissioners, Calcutta, for the year 1904-1905.
Administration Report of the Howrah Bridge for the year 1904-1905.
Administration Report of the Port Commissioners of Chittagong for the year 1904-1905.
Administration Report of the Orissa Ports for the year 1904-1905.]

THE PORT OF CALCUTTA.

Pilot Service and receipts from Pilotage.

275. At the close of the year there were 49 qualified pilots on the strength, being the same number as in the previous year. Three casualties occurred during the year and were met by the appointment of three qualified leadsmen. The sanctioned number of pilots is 58. This number can only be worked up to gradually as leadsmen qualify. At the end of the year there were 17 leadsmen in training, as compared with 14 at the end of the last year.

The receipts from pilotage during the year amounted to Rs. 13,54,160, against Rs. 12,23,309 of the previous year.

Arrival and departure of vessels.

276. One thousand five hundred and nineteen vessels arrived at the port during the year, and the number of vessels that sailed from it was 1,508. The total number of arrivals and departures was thus 3,027, or 288 more than that

of the previous year. These figures represent a gross tonnage of 5,678,220 inwards and 5,625,376 outwards. Of the total number of vessels visiting the port, only 25 were sailing ships. The average tonnage of steam and sailing vessels inwards and outwards was 3,734, against 3,585 in the previous year.

Altogether 15 vessels, 7 inward and 8 outward, were neaped for want of sufficient water on the bars, against only one such detention in the last year. Many vessels during the dry season left short of cargo to avoid being neaped. The number of vessels detained at the Sandheads for want of pilots was 13, as compared with 5 in the previous year and 17 in the year 1902-03. The shortest detention was 9 hours 40 minutes, the longest 53 hours 45 minutes, the average being 18 hours 57 minutes.

Casualties. 277. There were 5 collisions and 23 groundings, as against 17 collisions and 16 groundings in the previous year. In one case of collision, the pilot concerned was held to blame for error of judgment. With regard to the groundings, the pilots were held to blame in six instances. Thirty-seven preliminary enquiries into shipping casualties were held by the Port Officer, of which two were referred to Departmental Courts of Enquiry and nine to Special Courts of Enquiry. In eight cases, the pilots were held to blame and were suitably dealt with by this Government.

Examinations. 278. One hundred and twenty-one candidates appeared at the examination for Colonial and Home Trade certificates of competency, of whom 75 passed; 331 candidates also appeared at the different examinations for certificates of competency as Masters, Serangs, Engineers and Engine-drivers under Act VI of 1884, but only 121 passed.

Rules under the Indian Petroleum Act, 1899. 279. The rules issued by this Government in September 1903 for regulating the grant of licenses for the possession and transport of petroleum in Bengal have been revised, and an amended draft has been submitted to the Government of India for sanction.

A separate set of rules has been specially sanctioned for the grant of licenses to owners of motor vehicles.

CALCUTTA SHIPPING OFFICE.

Finance. 280. The receipts of the Shipping Office at Calcutta amounted to Rs. 85,723, or an increase of Rs. 6,972. This is mainly due to an increase in the shipping, discharging and overtime fees, and also to the sale of discharge certificates.

The expenditure showed an increase of Rs. 18,745, the main cause being the opening of a Branch Shipping Office at the Kidderpore Docks under an additional Assistant Shipping Master. This office has proved a great convenience to the shipping. A sum of Rs. 8,916 was also paid during the year as overtime allowance to the staff for work done in previous years.

Seamen shipped and discharged. 281. The number of seamen shipped and discharged were—

Shipped	41,943
Discharged	39,180

The decrease in the number of seamen shipped under European articles, which has been a prominent feature in recent years, still continues. During the past year, however, the decrease was only 54, or about a fourth of that of the previous year. There was an increase of 3,033 in the total number of discharges, due to some extent to the crews of the new pilot vessel for the port and two vessels brought out by the Bengal-Nagpur Railway for the wagon ferry at Shalimar having been paid off at Calcutta and sent home. The shipments and discharges under Indian articles have increased by 322 during the last year. In addition 64 seamen were shipped and 88 discharged by foreign Consuls. The number of distressed seamen sent home increased from 65 to 70, due to the larger number of discharges under European articles.

Overtime fees. 282. The question of revising the system of charging overtime fees for work done in the Calcutta and Shipping Offices has been under the consideration of this Government for some time. It has now been decided that both at Calcutta and Chittagong the ordinary office hours of the Shipping Office will be from 9 A.M. to 6 P.M., that no fees will be levied for any work done ashore

either out of office hours or on Sundays or holidays, and that for shipping and discharging crews *afloat* the fee per vessel will be—

	At Calcutta.	At Chittagong.
	Rs.	Rs.
(*a*) Out of office hours ...	16	10
(*b*) On Sundays or close holidays ...	32	16

HEALTH OF THE PORT.

283. The number of inward and outward bound vessels inspected during the year was 2,240 against 1,749 during the previous year. The number of European and Asiatic seamen inspected on incoming vessels was 12,908 Europeans and 24,586 Asiatics, and in outward bound vessels the numbers were 25,241 and 87,589 respectively. Inspection of vessels.

284. Twenty thousand two hundred and twenty-four European seamen arrived at the Port during the year, and the daily average population of the Port was 1,128 and the death-rate among them was 10·64 per mille. The quinquennial death-rate was 24·12. Health of the Port.

285. Sixty-five thousand six hundred and fifty-five lascars arrived during the year, of whom 39,919 were in coasting steamers, 29,391 in foreign-going steamers, 83 in sailing ships and 261 in Turkish and Arab vessels. Eighty-seven thousand five hundred and eighty-nine lascars left the Port. Lascar crews.

CALCUTTA PORT TRUST.

286. The income for the year 1904-1905 amounted to Rs. 88,86,726, against Rs. 79,65,376 for the year 1903-1904. The expenditure amounted to Rs. 82,32,754. The balance of receipts over expenditure in the year, after deducting Rs. 14,684, representing the net expenditure in 1904-1905 under the Bond Debt Account in respect of transactions previous to April 1904, was Rs. 6,39,289. Adding this amount to the accumulated balances of previous years, the total surplus revenue on the 31st March 1905 was Rs. 28,70,425. Revenue receipts and expenditure.

287. A sum of Rs. 30,67,305 was expended during the year on various new works; the more important works completed or in progress were—a four-storied warehouse at the jetties; a 30-ton floating crane; construction and equipment of berth No. 14 in the tidal basin; enlargement of the grain depôt at Kantapukur; transit sheds at the docks to accommodate the tea brought by inland vessels; provision of two more berths for the export of coal in Dock No. 2; the second Dry Dock, which was nearly completed within the year and is now in use; two despatch steamers for use in the survey of the Port Approaches; and a self-contained light vessel and buoys illuminated by gas. Capital expenditure.

The expenditure was met partly by temporary advances from Revenue Funds and partly by overdrafts on the Bank of Bengal.

The capital debt of the Trust on the 31st March 1905 was Rs. 4,98,10,320. Against this debt the Commissioners hold properties, including works in progress, stores, cash and securities in hand, of the value of Rs. 6,68,24,200, not including the Strand Bank and Howrah Foreshore lands, the capitalised value of which at present rates of rent would amount to a considerable sum.

288. In addition to the Revenue Reserve and Sinking Funds, the Commissioners have a Depreciation Fund for vessels and plant and a Fire Insurance Fund. The addition made to these funds during the year amounted to Rs. 2,36,299 and Rs. 13,900, respectively; but a sum of Rs. 4,60,433 had to be withdrawn from the Depreciation Fund to meet expenditure chargeable to that Fund. At the close of the year, the balance at credit of these funds stood at Rs. 11,89,063. Depreciation and Insurance Funds.

Working results for the year 1904-05, compared with those of the previous year.

289. The following table, reproduced from the Commissioners' report, shows the details of the receipts and charges of the Revenue Account for the year under review, as compared with the similar figures for the previous year :—

	1904-1905.				1903-1904.				Difference between 1904-1905 and 1903-1904.		Remarks.
	Income.	Expenditure.	Net Revenue.	Net Deficit.	Income.	Expenditure.	Net Revenue.	Net Deficit.	Improvement.	Falling off.	
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
I.—Control ...	22,673	5,76,647	.....	5,53,974	20,764	5,22,969	.....	5,02,205	.....	51,769	
II.—Jetties ...	11,12,961	5,27,370	5,85,591	.....	11,05,729	5,16,132	5,89,597	.....	.....	4,006	
III.—Tea Warehouse...	1,27,675	72,491	55,184	.....	1,11,300	64,211	47,179	.....	8,005	.....	
IV.—Petroleum Wharf	2,80,205	51,970	2,28,235	.....	2,87,261	73,890	2,13,371	.....	14,864	.....	
V.—Inland vessels Wharves ...	4,14,438	1,39,679	2,74,759	.....	3,97,604	1,30,132	2,67,472	.....	7,287	.....	
VI.—Rentable Lands and Buildings	7,76,026	98,721	6,77,305	.....	6,59,243	1,03,070	5,56,173	.....	1,21,132	.....	
VII.—Port	4,68,334	4,69,452	.....	1,118	5,37,658	5,52,065	.....	14,407	13,289	.....	
VIII.—Port Approaches	6,45,935	5,05,572	1,40,363	.....	6,06,238	5,59,874	46,364	.....	93,999	.....	
IX.—Railway ...	8,95,376	7,77,102	1,18,274	.....	8,21,295	5,63,417	2,57,878	.....	.....	1,39,604	
X.—Wet Docks ...	23,53,624	23,11,739	41,885	.....	20,99,800	19,75,355	1,24,445	.....	.....	82,560	
XI.—Dry Dock ...	2,12,941	60,214	1,52,727	.....	2,16,138	54,643	1,61,495	.....	.....	8,768	
XII.—River Dues ...	15,24,529	.....	15,24,529	.....	10,63,579	.....	10,63,579	.....	4,60,950	.....	
Sale of unserviceable materials	33,271	.....	33,271	.....	3,641	.....	3,641	.....	29,630	.....	
Interest on current deposits	Dr.23,210	.....	Dr.23,210	.....	12,213	.....	12,213	.....	.....	35,423	
Interest on Revenue Reserve	41,948	.....	41,948	.....	22,823	.....	22,823	.....	19,125	.....	
Interest and Sinking Fund charges ...	.....	26,25,544	.....	26,25,544	.....	25,27,733	.....	25,27,733	.....	97,811	
Expenses, Luff Point Commission ...	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	32,071	.....	32,071	32,071	.....	
Loss by fraud ...	.....	16,253	.....	16,253	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	16,253	
TOTAL ...	38,86,726	82,32,754	38,50,861	31,96,889	79,65,376	76,75,562	33,65,230	30,76,416	8,00,352	4,36,194	
Less—Charges to Bad Debt Account and Outstanding earnings	Cr.86,902	.....	86,902	.....	Cr.10,219	.....	10,219	.....	76,683	.....	
NETT ...	39,73,628	82,32,754	39,37,763	31,96,889	79,75,595	76,75,562	33,76,449	30,76,416	8,77,035	4,36,194	Net improvement Rs.4,40,841.
Balance	.....	.....	7,40,874	.....	.....	.....	3,00,033	.....	.....	.....	

It is to be noted with reference to the above that but for reductions in various rates which have been granted, the revenue of 1904-1905 would have been greater by Rs. 1,20,000.

The most noticeable feature is the large increase of 4½ lakhs in the receipts from river dues. At present these dues are levied by annual requisitions of this Government under the powers given by section 108 of the Calcutta Port Act. The question whether the river dues should be now regarded as a permanent source of income to the Port Trust is under consideration.

There is a material decrease in the net receipts from the Commissioners' Railway which is due to the charges for hire and demurrage of extra wagons and engines required to meet the increase in the shipments of seeds and coal. The Commissioners have taken steps to increase their rolling stock and to improve their sidings which will facilitate unloading and will avoid charges for demurrage.

The receipts from the wet docks continue to expand, but so do the working expenses, and the net result is a little behind that of the previous year. The goods exported over the dock quays aggregated 3,326,370 tons, which is a figure far above that of any previous year. The principal increases are in the items wheat, seeds and coal. So far the docks have been very little used for the import of goods, and only 29,067 tons were landed there during the year under review. The dry dock continues to give a substantial return on the capital invested in it, which is stated at Rs. 8,65,948.

Vessels berthed at the jetties.

290. Two hundred and fifty-nine vessels, with an aggregate tonnage of 905,991, were berthed at the jetties during the year, against 266 vessels, with a tonnage of 852,630 in the year 1903-1904. The average tonnage of vessels has increased from 3,205 to 3,498. The average number of days that each vessel occupied the jetties was 6·8 days.

Establishment of steam ferries within the Port.

291. In March 1903, the Port Commissioners, Calcutta, submitted, for the consideration of this Government, a proposal to establish steam ferries on the Hooghly within the Port of Calcutta. The subject was considered by the

Government and the proposal has been sanctioned, and the necessary amendment made in the Calcutta Port Act, 1890, empowering the Commissioners to build vessels for the carrying of passengers.

HOWRAH BRIDGE.

Howrah Bridge.

292. The receipts during the year, including interest received on Reserve Fund investments, amounted to Rs. 1,90,977, against Rs. 1,81,155 of the previous year, showing an increase of Rs. 9,822. The expenditure of the year was Rs. 2,25,413, being greater than that of the previous year by Rs. 31,806. On the year's working there was a loss of Rs. 34,436, which was met by an appropriation from the Reserve Fund.

The Bridge was opened for the passage of vessels on 158 occasions, of which 105 were on the ordinary fixed days of the week (Tuesdays and Fridays), and 53 were on Sundays, Wednesdays and Thursdays on special application. The numbers of vessels of various classes which passed through the Bridge were the highest on record. No sea-going vessels collided with the Bridge.

THE PORT OF CHITTAGONG.

Financial.

293. The receipts of the Port amounted to Rs. 1,28,951, which was a little short of those of the previous year. The expenditure amounted to Rs. 78,975.

Shipping.

294. Three hundred and thirty-nine vessels entered the port, or 17 less than in the previous year; but, on the other hand, the aggregate tonnage increased from 283,959 to 307,207 tons, showing that larger vessels were visiting the port. The number of foreign vessels visiting the port fell off owing to an inferior jute crop.

Trade.

295. With the exception of jute, the other chief staples of trade, viz., grain, tea, salt, mineral oil, etc., were either fairly maintained or increased. The total trade of the port showed an increase of nearly 11 lakhs of rupees due mainly to the larger shipment of grain and Assam tea to Cochin and the United Kingdom, respectively.

Port appliances.

296. The appliances of the Port and Light-houses have been maintained in proper order. The jetty at double moorings was made over to the Assam-Bengal Railway, which was authorized to levy jetty tolls and to exercise control over the vessels making use of the jetty.

The general question of improving the Port by revetment works, erection of additional jetties and purchase of a dredger was the subject of correspondence between this Government and the Government of India and the Port Commissioners. These subjects are now being dealt with by the newly constituted Government of Eastern Bengal and Assam.

Arrangements are also being made for improving the lighting of the Port and its approaches. The *Sarsuti*, lately one of the Pilot brigs at the Sandheads at the mouth of the river Hooghly, is being fitted up as a light vessel, and, when ready, will be placed at the South Patches Shoal to replace the existing buoy which has always proved unsatisfactory. Two leading lights are also being obtained from England to be erected at suitable selected places in the river so as to enable vessels to take advantage of the night tides which are, as a rule, higher than the day tides.

Pilotage Fund.

297. The receipts of the Pilotage Fund amounted to Rs. 19,622 and the disbursements to Rs. 14,280. One hundred and four vessels were piloted in and 103 vessels out. There was only one casualty for which the Pilot was warned.

Seamen.

298. The number of seamen shipped and discharged was 40 and 758 against 75 and 876 in the previous year.

The receipts of the year amounted to Rs. 1,121 against Rs. 1,659 in the previous year, or a decrease of Rs. 538. There were no disbursements.

THE PORTS OF ORISSA.

Number of vessels.

299. The number of vessels visiting the ports has fallen off from 374 in 1894-95 to 215, or a decrease of 42 per cent. During the previous year the number was 225. The tonnage of the vessels, as compared with last year, has, however, slightly increased.

Financial.

300. The receipts of the ports during the year amounted to Rs. 14,054, against Rs. 15,582 in 1903-04, showing a decrease of Rs. 1,528. The expenditure amounted to Rs. 15,451, against Rs. 14,615 in the previous year, showing an increase of Rs. 836. The increase is specially marked in Balasore, and is partly due to the cost of acquiring land for the Chandipur Flagstaff The expenditure during the year exceeded the receipts, but owing to the balance of Rs. 13,088 in hand, no contribution was required from Government.

Passengers.

301. The passenger traffic between Orissa and Calcutta is fairly steady. Almost the whole of this traffic is with the port of Chandballi, and the numbers carried between Calcutta and this port and *vice versâ* were 86,986.

Inspections.

302. The ports were inspected by the Port Officer, Calcutta, during the year, and their condition found satisfactory. The erosion of Shortt's Island to the south-east continues during the south-west monsoon. The stone structure of the former light is now standing in the sea and is about 350 feet outside the high water-line of the island. The island is making up on its western side more rapidly than it is now cutting away to the eastward, although the new formation is very low and offers no protection at present. The two spits at the entrance of the lagoon continue to close, and the lagoon is now dry at low water.

Health.

303. The general health of the ports was, on the whole, good. One suspected case of plague was landed from the steamer *Curlew* and proved fatal. Fifteen cases of cholera were landed from the steamers *Curlew* and *Jattra*, of which 12 proved fatal.

Shipping.

304. During the year 91 vessels were visited to enquire into matters affecting the vessels. No complaints regarding bad or insufficient food, drinking-water or accommodation of seamen were received.

Only one British seaman was shipped at False Point during the year. No seamen were discharged in the Shipping Office. The annual statement of shipping business transacted at False Point during 1904-05 shows a collection of Rs. 1 only under the head "Shipping fees."

There were no transactions under the Merchant Shipping Acts at the ports of Balasore, Chandballi and Puri during the year under review.

CHAPTER IV.—PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

LIBRARY OF THE BOMBAY BRANCH OF THE ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY

Agriculture.

[The Report of the Agricultural Branch of the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, Bengal, for the year ending 31st March 1905.]

Agricultural improvements.

305. A special grant of Rs. 12,000 was allotted by the Government of India for agricultural improvements, and has been applied to the provision of nurseries for rearing silkworm seed under scientific and hygienic principles and the free distribution of a manure which for several years in the Burdwan farm has produced exceptional results on the outturn of paddy.

Reorganization of the Agricultural Department.

306. Towards the end of the year under report, the Government of India announced that a large permanent grant would be given to every Province in India for the development of its Agricultural Department. Proposals were accordingly submitted by this Government, and recently a permanent grant of Rs. 3,50,000 per annum has been allotted to this Province by the Government of India, on the understanding that a proportionate reduction will be made in the event of the transfer of a certain portion of this Province to Assam. The Lieutenant-Governor now desires to make public the following scheme for the development of the Agricultural Department in this Province which has been provisionally accepted by the Government of India. It is proposed to create a separate Director of Agriculture and to give him a complete staff of peripatetic experts. A Provincial Agricultural College will also be established under the supervision of European and Indian professors. Besides providing agricultural education for the sons of a limited number of landholders, this College will provide trained men to supply the staff of all the other agricultural institutions in the Province, and to fill the graded Agricultural Service which it is hoped to form as soon as possible. As trained men are turned out from the Agricultural College, large farms will be opened at selected centres at which agricultural experiments will be undertaken with a special view to the agricultural wants of the tracts within which the experimental farm is situated. A portion of the area will be set aside for seed selection, and it is hoped in course of time to place depôts for seeds, implements, and manures at each experimental farm, and to supply them at the lowest possible prices to the public. When an experimental farm is established, agricultural improvements suited to the tracts of which it forms the centre will be brought home to the cultivators by means of demonstration farms. These farms will be smaller and more numerous than the experimental farms. They will be temporary in nature, and will be opened at such places and for such periods as occasion requires. Apart from this general scheme, it is proposed to retain a few special experts for certain important crops. Assistance to agricultural fairs and to other means of disseminating agricultural knowledge among the people will continue to be given. In particular the several Agricultural Associations will be fostered and afforded financial support and expert advice when necessary.

Scientific Enquiries.

307. The Department has during the past two years co-operated with the Board of Scientific Advice in regard to the alleged deterioration of jute, and the conclusions at which the Board have arrived, viz., that there is not only no proof that any degeneration in either of the two species of jute plants has occurred, but that there is strong evidence that the plants are now precisely as they were a century or more ago, will go far to allay the gloomy forebodings in consequence of which these enquiries were instituted. The suggested legislation to penalize the fraudulent watering of jute is still under discussion. An attempt was made during the year under report to introduce

superior varieties of Egyptian and American cotton, and the best varieties from other Provinces of India. It is to be regretted that owing to heavy and continuous rain and the unusual severity of the winter, the trial was a failure. Scientific enquiry regarding the cultivation of cotton in Bengal is entirely at the experimental stage, and several years of investigation and seed selection must necessarily pass before the Department will be in a position confidently to recommend selected varieties to the raiyat, or to undertake seed distribution on a commercial scale to the public.

Irrigation experiments.

308. These were undertaken on the lines indicated by the Irrigation Commission, especially with regard to economy in the use of water. It appears that it is too early to summarise the results, and the experiments are being repeated at all the places at which they were tried last year. It is hoped that crop-cutting experiments on fairly comparable irrigated and unirrigated areas will be conducted on a much larger scale during the coming season, and that the co-operation of officers of the Irrigation and Agricultural Departments in the conduct of these experiments will establish the value of irrigation, and that the results will be published in the vernacular and widely distributed.

Experimental Farms.

309. Besides the three farms, Sibpur, Chittagong and Cuttack, mentioned in the Report for 1903-04, arrangements were made during the year under report for establishing two more farms (one at Rampur Boalia and the other at Rangpur). A consideration of the reports of the work done in each farm shows that the manuring of paddy with saltpetre and bonemeal did not produce results in the Sibpur and Cuttack farms equal to those in the Burdwan farm. The question of cattle-breeding, which only arises in the Sripur farm, has been separately dealt with in the recent Resolution on the Report of the Veterinary Department. This Government has decided to support the policy, laid down by the Inspector-General of the Veterinary Department to the Government of India, of improving local breeds for agricultural purposes by a process of rigorous selection, and of discountenancing cross-breeding, except for improvement in milking qualities.

Sericulture.

310. The Silk Committee continues its useful work in the districts of Birbhum, Malda, Murshidabad and Rajshahi, and trusts that with larger funds at its disposal its sphere of usefulness may be widely increased. In the district of Malda a sericultural class in connection with the Jote Arapur Middle English School has been opened.

Agricultural education.

311. Ten students passed out of 14 at the final examination from Sibpur. As many of these passed students and of the passed students of the previous years as possible will be employed in connection with the scheme for development of the Agricultural Department, and to include them in the proposed graded service. Four passed students selected by the Director of Land Records have lately been sent to America for a post-graduate course of two years' practical training, and one passed student was deputed to Pusa for a course of training in Entomology and another to Burma for training in cigar-making.

Agricultural classes have been attached to the Ravenshaw College and Collegiate School at Cuttack, the Chittagong Collegiate School, the Gaya Zilla School, the Dumraon High School, the Howrah Zilla School and the Burdwan Municipal School.

The Rajshahi Sericultural School during the year under report has enlarged its courses of study, and now teaches not only sericulture but also weaving and other technical subjects, such as Engineering, Carpentry, etc. It is hoped that the District Board of Midnapore, in view of the falling-off in the number of scholars of the Sabong Seri-Agricultural School, may be able to afford more assistance in the way of encouraging pupils by scholarships.

Agricultural Association.

312. With a view to securing for Government the co-operation of men interested in agriculture, the Bengal Provincial Agricultural Association was inaugurated in August last. The members include some 33 leading zamindars and men of business, and meet at Writers' Buildings, Calcutta. Steps are being taken to provide a large reference library for the members of the Association. A Divisional Agricultural Association was also formed at Calcutta and a District Association at Rangpur during the year under report, and more associations are now being formed.

Weather and Crops.

[Season and Crop Report of Bengal for 1904-05. Report on Land Revenue Administration of the Lower Provinces for 1904-05. Agricultural Statistics of India Volume I.]

Character of the Season.

313. The rainfall in April was considerably below the normal in South-West Bengal, Chota Nagpur, Orissa and Bihar, while in North and East Bengal it was considerably in excess. During almost the whole of May rain was more or less continuous in North Bengal, and towards the end of the month there was a cyclonic storm giving heavy rain in North and Central Bengal. In North Bengal the rainfall of May exceeded the average by 6·89 inches. The first eight days of June were practically rainless. After this period rains fell generally over the Province, but the total fall of the month was below the average in North and East Bengal. In July the rainfall was, for the most part, above the average. During the first three weeks of August the monsoon continued strong, but in the fourth week there were signs of weakening. The total fall of the month was, however, above the average in Bihar and Chota Nagpur. Although the monsoon current in September maintained more than its average strength for the first part of the month, yet, taking the month as a whole, the rainfall was below normal in all the Divisions of the Province, especially in Bihar. The weather in October was chiefly noteworthy for the early appearance of the north-east monsoon and the consequent deficiency in rainfall which accompanied this early change in meteorological conditions. A cyclonic storm, however, which burst between the 16th and 18th of the month, brought copious rain to Bihar and North Bengal. The rainfall during November was chiefly caused by two storms which crossed the coast near Chittagong affecting East Bengal and the adjacent districts. Some rain fell, however, in November in other parts of the Province, particularly in Bihar. The fall for the month of December was exceptionally light. January was generally showery. The rainfall of that month was largely above the average in South-West Bengal, Orissa and Chota Nagpur. In February the cold was of a most unusual character. Ground frosts were reported from a considerable number of stations in Bengal. The total rainfall in February was above the average for all Divisions, except in East Bengal and Orissa. The weather in March was more or less showery for the greater part of the month. The rainfall was above the average in every Division of the Province. On the whole it was a bad agricultural year. The frost in February did much damage to the standing crops in Bihar and North Bengal.

Total cropped area.

314. The table below gives the estimated area and outturn in 1904-05 of the different harvests, viz., *bhadoi*, winter and *rabi*, as compared with those of the previous year and those of a normal year :—

Name of harvest.	Normal area in acres.	Area cultivated during 1903-04 in acres.	Area cultivated during 1904-05 in acres	Taking 100 to represent the normal outturn, how much epresented rthe outturn for the year 1903-04.	Taking 100 to represent the normal outturn, how much represented the outturn for the year 1904-05.
Bhadoi	16,261,900	14,659,000	15,697,000	81	75
Winter { Winter rice...	30,782,600	27,395,800	30,217,900	90	86
Winter { Sugarcane ...	675,900	632,400	637,800	94	90
Rabi	15,470,100	14,883,700	14,481,300	90	75
Total ...	63,190,500	57,570,900	61,034,000	88	81

The above figures are taken from the final forecasts published by the Agricultural Department. It should be explained that the final forecast of sugarcane was issued before the February frost. The estimate of 90 per cent. as the outturn for 1904-05 was not realised.

The total crop area of the Province in a normal year amounts, according to the latest estimates, to about 63 million acres, of which winter rice,

which is the staple food-crop of the Province, occupies about 30¾ million acres; the various *bhadoi* food-crops occupy about 12¾ million acres and the *rabi* food-crops nearly 10 million acres; sugarcane is grown on about ⅔ million acres, and the other *bhadoi* and *rabi* non-food crops, including jute and oilseeds, are grown on the rest.

Bhadoi **or autumn crops.**

315. The total area cultivated with all descriptions of *bhadoi* crops, both food and non-food, was 15,697,000 acres, as compared with 14,659,000 acres in the preceding year and a normal area of 16,261,900 acres. The outturn of the *bhadoi* crops was estimated at 75 per cent. against 81 per cent. of the preceding year, the low outturn being chiefly due to the heavy rains in July. *Food-crops* occupied 11,817,400, as compared with a normal area of 12,647,900 acres, and their outturn was estimated at only 73 per cent. of a normal crop. The various *non-food* crops, including jute, indigo, *bhadoi-til* and cotton, were sown in 3,879,600 acres, the normal area being estimated at 3,614,000 acres. The jute crop was estimated at 85 per cent.; and indigo, which was the poorest of all, gave an outturn of only 56 per cent. The total yield of all the *bhadoi non-food* crops was estimated at 80 per cent. of the normal.

Winter rice crops.

316. The ante-monsoon showers, which are so important for the preparation of the soil, were defective, excepting in North and East Bengal. The general drought which prevailed in the end of September and the beginning of October seriously affected the crop in Bihar, Orissa and Chota Nagpur. The area sown was estimated at 30,217,900 acres, as compared with 27,395,800 acres of the preceding year. The normal area under this crop is taken as 30,782,600 acres. The Provincial outturn was estimated at 86 per cent. of the average against 90 per cent. in the preceding year.

Rabi **or spring crops.**

317. There was good rain in Bihar (where the bulk of the *rabi* crops is grown) at the sowing season, but a long drought followed till January. The severe cold of February seriously damaged the crops in Bihar. The rainfall about the harvesting time in March also was most unfavourable to the crops. The result was that the outturn for the Province, as a whole, was 75 per cent., as compared with 90 per cent. in the preceding year.

The total area cultivated with *rabi* crops, both food and non-food, was estimated at 14,481,300 acres, against 14,883,700 acres in the preceding year, the total normal area being returned at 15,470,100 acres. The total area cultivated with the various rabi *food-crops*, including wheat, amounted to 9,515,100 acres in the year under report against 9,821,500 acres in 1903-04, and the outturn amounted to 75 per cent. of the normal. The area sown with the different rabi *non food* crops, including cotton and *rabi* oilseeds, was estimated at 4,966,200 acres, as compared with a total normal area of 5,426,500 acres, and the outturn was estimated, as in the case of food-crops, at 75 per cent. of the normal.

The *boro* or summer rice and wheat yielded 93 and 76 per cent., respectively, of the normal outturn.

Sugarcane was planted on an estimated area of 637,800 acres against 632,400 acres in the preceding year, the normal area under this crop being returned at 675,900 acres. The estimated outturn was returned at 90 per cent., but, as explained above, this estimate requires revision. Probably 75 or 80 per cent. is nearer the truth. The outturn of the previous year was shown as 94 per cent.

Divisional summary.

318. The following summary of the harvest is given Division by Division. In the Burdwan Division prospects were very hopeful till the early cessation of the rains in September and October. Floods in the Ghatal and Contai subdivisions, in the district of Midnapore, caused by the heavy rainfall in July and August, injured the crops in the low-lying areas. The *bhadoi* food-crops of the Division gave only 74 per cent. outturn, while winter rice yielded only 78 per cent. of a normal crop. The *rabi* food-crops gave an outturn of 73 per cent.

Compared with the preceding year, the rainfall was in excess in all the districts of the Presidency Division, but it was not evenly distributed. The outturn was, however, satisfactory on the whole. The *bhadoi* food-crops of the Division gave only 73 per cent. outturn, while winter rice yielded 86 per cent. of a normal crop. The outturn of the *rabi* food-crops amounted to only 68 per cent.

In the districts of Rajshahi and Pabna, the outturn of both *bhadoi* and winter rice was better than that in the previous year; but, owing to the early subsidence of the flood-water, the latter crop did not yield more than the normal outturn. The *bhadoi* crop in the remaining districts of the Rajshahi Division suffered from excessive and untimely rainfall, while deficiency of rain later on affected the final outturn of the winter crop. The *bhadoi* food-crops of the Division gave an outturn of 79 per cent., winter rice was only an 88 per cent. crop, while *rabi* food-crops gave 79 per cent. of the normal. Jute was no more than a 68 per cent. crop.

The rainfall in the Dacca Division was generally favourable to winter rice. The Divisional outturn of the *bhadoi* food-crops was 91 per cent. and that of winter rice above the normal. The *rabi* food-crops amounted to 82 per cent., while jute gave an outturn of 79 per cent.

The *bhadoi* and *rabi* food-crops in the Chittagong Division averaged 78 and 81 per cent., respectively, while winter rice and jute yielded 97 and 83 per cent., respectively.

The heavy downpour in July and August in the Patna Division caused considerable damage to the *bhadoi*. The paddy was injured by drought in September, and was only just saved over a considerable area by the storm of October 17th and 18th. Rain, hail and frost in February and March combined to reduce the outturn of the *rabi* crops below the normal. The *bhadoi* food-crops of the Division gave an outturn of 67 per cent. and the winter rice gave an outturn of 79 per cent. The *rabi* food-crops gave 71 per cent. Indigo yielded only 52 per cent., while opium gave 83 per cent. Sugarcane gave 79 per cent.

A great deficiency in the rainfall in September caused much anxiety in the Bhagalpur Division, but fortunately good rain fell just before it was too late, except in the greater part of the Sonthal Parganas. In Monghyr and in the Rajmahal subdivision of the Sonthal Parganas floods did much damage to the *bhadoi* crops. The outturn of tobacco was poorer in every district than in the last year, as the crop suffered much from frost. It is stated that the cultivation of jute is extending rapidly in Purnea. The indigo outturn was poor, except in Malda. The *bhadoi* food-crops in the Division yielded an outturn of 79 per cent., while the winter rice gave an outturn of 88 per cent. The *rabi* food-crops gave an outturn of 83 per cent. Indigo was a 69 per cent. crop, while poppy was a 76 per cent. crop. Sugarcane was estimated at 93 per cent.

In Orissa the rainfall was not favourable to the *bhadoi* and the winter rice crops. The *bhadoi* food-crops was 68 per cent. of the normal, while winter rice gave 84 per cent. of the normal. The *rabi* food-crops came only to 79 per cent.

The rainfall in the Chota Nagpur Division exceeded the normal, but the distribution was faulty. There was a heavy decrease in the outturn of the *rabi* crops in all the districts of the Division, which was due to the want of seasonable rain and also to the frost and heavy rain in the cold weather. The *bhadoi* food-crops gave an outturn of 65 per cent. in the Division, while winter rice amounted to 77 per cent. The *rabi* food-crops only came to 61 per cent. of the normal.

Horticulture.

[Annual Report of the Royal Botanic Garden and the Lloyd Botanic Garden for 1904-1905.]

Economic work.

318. The investigations into the species of *agaves* found in India, referred to in last year's report, have been continued and concluded during the year. Their results, which promise to be of great value, are in the press. In connection with this investigation, a complete set of the *agaves* grown in the Calcutta Garden has been sent to the Director of the Mussuri Botanic Garden, who is an authority on *agaves;* the experiments with "sunn" hemp (*crotalaria juncea*) are being continued. Considerable attention was given to the growing of the different species and varieties of cotton—supplied by the Agricultural Department and the Reporter on Economic Products—cultivated or attempted to be cultivated in India.

Herbarium.

319. The past year has been a notable one in the history of the Herbarium. In the annual report for 1889-1890 Dr. (now Sir George) King writes that, when the mounted collection was removed from the old building into the present one, it was contained in 93 cabinets. In 1890 the collection filled 186 cabinets, and the number of specimens was estimated at over half-a-million. Since 1890 the collection has increased so prodigiously, that until this year the cabinets were overflowing and many thousands of specimens had to be piled on tables and on the floor. The special grant allotted to the garden during the year under review has enabled the general Herbarium in the gallery of the building to be entirely reorganised. There are now thirty-two cabinets in the general herbarium with a total capacity of about a million specimens.

Lloyd Botanic Garden.

320. This garden suffered somewhat from the severe cold in January and February. Plants representing about twenty different indigenous species and as many exotic species were killed; otherwise the condition of this garden was normal throughout the year. The usual collections of Himalayan seeds were made for distribution.

Financial.

321. The allotment for contingencies for the Royal Botanic Garden, as well as the special grant for the reorganisation of the Herbarium and Library and establishment of a laboratory and Museum were spent in full. There was a saving of Rs. 2,839-4-1 under establishment charges and of Rs. 781-3 under travelling allowance. All the allotments for the Lloyd Botanic Garden were spent. The revenues for the Royal Botanic Garden of Rs. 1,415-0-6 and for the Lloyd Botanic Garden of Rs. 331-4 were paid into the Calcutta and Darjeeling Treasuries respectively.

Forests.

[Annual Progress Report of Forest Administration in the Lower Provinces of Bengal for the year 1904-1905.]

Reserved Forests.

322. The only real change in Reserved Forests was an addition of 11,520 acres, due to the reservation of the Sachaphu Forest in the Buxa Division. The adoption of Forest Survey figures for the Darjeeling and Tista Divisions, and the supply of revised figures by the Superintendent of Provincial Surveys for the Puri Division, led to a net increase of 11,064 acres. Thus the total area at the end of the year was 6,049 square miles, of which 6,040 square miles were under the management of the Forest Department, the larger area representing 4 per cent. of the total area of the Province.

Protected Forests.

323. The only important changes in Protected Forests are decreases of 84,537 acres in the Singhbhum Division, where the Forest Survey figures for demarcated blocks in the Kolhan Estate have been substituted for former estimates of the total area of waste land, 3,650 acres in Puri on account of leases for cultivation and 3,861 acres in the Sundarbans for the same reason. Including 604 square miles under other management, the total area at the end of the year was 3,428 square miles, or 2·27 per cent. of the area of the Province.

Breaches of forest law.

324. The number of forest offences reported was 3,104, or 181 more than in the previous year and 94 more than the average for the three previous years.

More than half the cases of the year occurred in the Darjeeling and Tista Divisions which show increases of 240 and 143 cases, respectively. But in these Divisions cases were, as usual, of a trivial nature, such as appear to be unavoidable where there is a large labouring population living near enough to the forest boundaries to make it worth their while to steal head loads of wood or fodder, and the increases were probably due to greater alertness of the subordinate staff. The number of cases reported in the Sundarbans Division, which had previously dropped from 928 in 1902-1903 to 394 in 1903-1904, showed a further decline to 297 in the year under review.

Forest fires.

325. In the total area under special protection there were only 48 outbreaks of fire affecting $10\frac{1}{4}$ square miles, against 68 outbreaks affecting 109 square miles in the previous year, and the percentage of failure works out to 0·46 per cent. against 5·02 per cent. in 1903-1904, 3·27 per cent. in 1902-1903 and 3·65 per cent. in 1901-1902. These good results were mainly due to a favourable fire season, for in all Divisions, April and the first half of May were damper than usual; and, though the holding-off of the monsoon caused anxiety in

the latter half of May and June, fires which broke out during that period were easier to extinguish than fires such as usually occur in April and the first half of May.

326. The most noticeable feature of the year's outturn is the increased yield of timber from departmental works and sales to purchasers. It was mainly due to a partial recovery in sales from the Sundarbans Division, and the exploitation of a larger proportion of the possible yield of the sâl forests. Outturn of forest produce.

The yield of sâl timber, disposed of departmentally or by sales to purchasers, was 1,083,556 cubic feet, that of *sundri* having been 1,108,060 cubic feet. Other important items were timber for tea boxes 136,279 cubic feet, timber for ordinary building purposes from hill forests 161,761 cubic feet, and miscellaneous timber and poles from the Sundarbans and Chittagong forests 2,782,204 cubic feet.

327. Rules for forming forest villages, to improve supplies of labour for fire protection and other works of improvement where existing supplies are inadequate, were sanctioned by the Local Government; and by the end of the year 35 forest villages, including a few old settlements, were established in the Buxa, Jalpaiguri and Singhbhum Divisions. Inhabitants of forest villages have already made themselves very useful, but it will not be possible to obtain a full outturn of work till the villages are well established; in a few places wild elephants are doing their best to make these villages uninhabitable. Miscellaneous.

328. Information under this head will be found in Chapter V—Revenue and Finance, under Forest Reserve. Financial Results.

Manufactures and mines.

[Divisional Commissioners' Miscellaneous Reports for 1900-01 to 1904-05; Agricultural Statistics of India, Volume I, Tables Nos. 7 (Tea) and 9 (Area and Yield of Crops); Financial and Commercial Statistics of British India, Twelfth Issue, Sections XXI, Cotton Mills; XXII, Jute Mills; XXVI, Coal Mines; XXVII, Mineral Produtcion; XXVIII, Sundry Industries.]

329. The total area cultivated with jute in 1904 was estimated at 2,850,000 acres and the total outturn at 7,267,500 bales as against 2,213,600 acres and 6,328,000 bales respectively in the previous year. The outturn was 85 per cent. of a normal crop. Jute.

There were 36 jute mills working in the Province at the close of the year under review. The total number of persons employed was 131,886 against 122,724 last year. The number of looms was 19,816 and the number of spindles 405,542 as compared with 18,228 and 372,836, respectively, last year.

330. The total number of cotton mills in the Province was 10, all of which are situated near Calcutta. There were 416,522 spindles at work in steam cotton mills against 450,962 last year, giving employment to 11,227 persons against 10,230 last year. The quantity of woven goods produced in these mills was 720,224lbs. Cotton mills.

331. The total number of tea plantations in the Province during the year under report was 411 as against 422 in the preceding year. The area under cultivation was 134,668 acres and the quantity of tea manufactured 53,885,829 lbs. as against 135,956 acres and 50,888,084lbs. respectively in the previous year. The total number of persons employed in the various gardens was 102,064. All the gardens except 47 are in the districts of Jalpaiguri and Darjeeling, the former contributing 38,452,478lbs. and the latter 13,626,490lbs. to the total output of the Province. Tea.

332. There were 256 mines working during the year, and the total outturn of coal was 7,063,680 tons as compared with 6,361,212 tons last year. The total number of persons employed was 75,804. Of the total output, the Raniganj, Jherria and Giridih coal-fields contributed 3,350,257 tons, 2,389,504 tons and 773,128 tons respectively. Coal.

333. The outturn of the indigo crop was according to the final figures furnished by Messrs. Moran & Co., of Calcutta, 36,500 factory maunds, 4,208 maunds for Lower Bengal and 32,292 maunds for Bihar, made up for the most part of 14,065 maunds for Tirhut and 13,695 maunds for Champaran. Indigo.

334. During the year 491,227lbs. of mixed ledger, Hybrid No. 1, and officianalis bark were worked up in the factory yielding 13,068lbs. 12oz. of sulphate of quinine, the largest quantity ever turned out by the factory in one year. The total outturn of the factory for the year is 15,639lbs. 12oz. Cinchona.

Compared with last year there has been an increased output of sulphate of quinine of 745lbs. 4oz., the average yield being 2·66 per cent., an increased output of sulphate of cinchonidine by 255lbs. and a decreased output of cinchona febrifuge by 1,774lbs. The decrease in the latter is due to the fact that during the last half of the year manufacture of the febrifuge was suspended, while a method of lightening the dark colour of the febrifuge as made by the new process was being elaborated. The total receipts for the year amount to Rs. 2,28,727-12-8, being a balance of Rs. 31,501-13-2 over the year's expenditure and an increase of Rs. 12,732-13-5 over last year's receipts.

GENERAL ACCOUNT OF MANUFACTURES AND MINES IN THE SEVERAL DIVISIONS.

Presidency Division.

335. The manufactures of the Division are many and various. Cotton twist and yarn, gunny bags and cloth, sugar and molasses, paper, silk, shellac and lac-dye, tobacco, soap, saltpetre, indigo, brass pots and bell-metal ware are only some of the more important. There were eighty factories actually at work at the close of the quinquennium, all except one being in the 24-Parganas. The average daily number of operatives in the factories, including men, women and children, was 123,882 as compared with 79,243 in the last year of the last quinquennium. The increase has been steady and continued, and forms one of the most satisfactory features of the report under review. Jute mills are reported to have proved fairly remunerative: two paper mills, both in the 24-Parganas, and one oil-mill, within the Berhampore Municipality, were worked at a profit, while the silk industry carried on chiefly in the district of Murshidabad is flourishing and the demand slowly rising. The manufacture of sugar, however, in spite of the countervailing duties, is gradually declining, owing to competition with imported sugar. The indigo industry also, once the most important in the districts of Nadia, Murshidabad and Jessore, where it has been established for the last century, has been almost extinguished by the rise in the cost of labour and by competition with the cheaper synthetic indigo made in Germany.

Chota Nagpur Division.

336. The chief industries of the Division are coal and mica mining, timber trading, the manufacture of shellac, the cultivation of tea, the manufacture of *tassar* cloths, coarse blankets, brass and bell-metal utensils and ornaments, trade in hides and horns, and rope making from *sabai* grass.

Lac is produced all over the Division, but it is only in the districts of Ranchi and Manbhum that there are factories for the manufacture of shellac. In Manbhum there were altogether 93 lac factories during 1904-05, as against 48 in 1903-04 and 52 in 1900-01. The outturn of manufactured tea aggregated 321,882 lbs. in 1904-05, as against 376,199 lbs. in 1899-1900. *Tassar* cloth is manufactured only in the district of Manbhum. There has thus been a gradual decline in the industry owing to many of the weavers having abandoned silk *tassar* weaving for the more lucrative manufacture of cotton cloth. Coarse cotton cloths are manufactured by native weavers all over the Division, and are much perferred by the lower classes and especially by the aborigines on account of their very superior durability to the machine-made article.

Mining is by far the most important industry next to agriculture in this Division. Coal is extensively worked in the Giridih subdivision in Hazaribagh and in the Gobindpur subdivision in Manbhum, and with the opening of the Barun-Daltonganj Railway during the quinquennium under review, the Daltonganj coal-field came to be regularly and systematically worked. If the projected line up the Damuda Valley is sanctioned, it would throw open the resources of the large Karanpura coal-fields in the district of Hazaribagh and other coal measures and iron and limestone deposits in the interior of the Division which are now inaccessible. Compared with the preceding quinquennium, the average output of coal and the average number of work people employed during the quinquennium under review show a marked increase in all the districts where collieries are worked, mostly in Manbhum, although the industry received checks from time to time on account of the dullness of the market.

Burdwan Division.

337. The Burdwan Division is fortunate in the number and variety of its manufactures. Silk and *tassar*, jute, cotton, molasses, shellac, rope, iron, brass, bell-metal and hardware, indigo, paper, pottery and mats are some of the principal. It is satisfactory to note that the silk industry in Burdwan, in spite

of outside competition, continues, to a very considerable extent, to hold its own. The manufacture of jute and cotton in the numerous mills of the districts of Hooghly and Howrah is the most important industry in the Division. Rope is manufactured on a large scale in the districts of Hooghly and Howrah, and there was a large increase in the outturn as compared with the quinquennium. The iron works at Barakar show a great development, while the pottery works at Raniganj in the concluding year of the period under report turned out articles to the value of Rs. 7,04,906, the highest figure hitherto attained. The chief coal mines of the Division are in the subdivision of Raniganj, where the industry has considerably developed in recent years, the annual average output during the five years under report being 2,823,730 tons against 1,826,844 tons in the preceding quinquennium, and the average number of work-people employed 34,312 against 24,715. The recent decline noticeable is attributed to the dulness of the coal market owing to the inferior class of coal which can find no market when the first class quality can only command so low a price. The development of other coal centres in Palamau and Assam have adversely affected the coal industry and it is doubtful if it is capable of much extension in this Division.

Rajshahi Division.

338. Gunny cloths and bags are to a considerable extent made in the district of Dinajpur and exported to Calcutta and elsewhere. The gunny cloth of a coarse quality is woven in the western portion of the district of Jalpaiguri. Cloth manufactured in the district compares very favourably with that of Dacca, Farasdanga, Santipur and other historic seats of this manufacture. Molasses is manufactured in almost all the districts of the Division. Brass utensils are made in Kalam and Budpara in the Nator subdivision in Rajshahi, in Pachagar in Jalpaiguri and in the Nilphamari and Kurigram subdivisions in Rangpur. They are also to a small extent manufactured in Pabna, but the outturn is insufficient even to meet local requirements. Pottery is made in some of the villages within the Nator subdivision and in thana Panchapur in Naugaon.

Orissa Division.

339. The principal products of the Division consist of gold and silver ornaments, *tassar* and cotton cloth, brass and bell-metal utensils and ornaments, molasses, wicker-work baskets, grass and bamboo mats, implements of husbandry, nets, earthenware, etc. These are, generally speaking, merely local manufactures to supply local wants.

Patna Division

340. Besides opium and other exciseable articles, the principal manufactures in this Division are indigo, sugar and saltpetre. Indigo is the chief article of manufacture in the North Gangetic districts of the Division, but the five years under review have witnessed a steady decline both in the outturn as well as in the value of the indigo produced. The rapid fall in the price of the manufactured indigo is due to the competition of the German synthetic dye. The price per maund is now barely sufficient to cover the cost of production, and many factories in North Bihar are either closing entirely or are reducing their area, the cultivation of indigo, sugar, cotton and country crops taking its place. The Government has come to the aid of the planters with a handsome grant for scientific research, the aim of which is to ascertain whether it is possible to increase further the outturn and quality of the dye at a cheaper cost, but the results so far have not been very encouraging.

The manufacture of refined sugar on an extensive scale is one of the immediate results of the decline of the indigo industry in North Bihar. It is a somewhat remarkable fact that many of the indigo concerns in Tirhut originally started as sugar factories, the manufacture of sugar being given up when indigo proved to be more profitable. The resuscitation of the sugar industry in Bihar has been pioneered by the India Development Company with their head factory at Ottur in the Muzaffarpur district, and branch factories at Seeraha in Chamaparan and Barhoga in Saran. The prospects of the near future hold out promise of success.

The manufacture of saltpetre comes next in importance in the list of industries in the Division of the Northern India Salt Department, and is practically confined to the four North-Gangetic districts of the Division.

The opium factory at Gulzarbagh also in Patna furnishes employment to thousands of labourers and skilled artisans throughout the year.

*The only mines in the Division are mica mines in the subdivision of Nawada in the Gaya district.

Dacca Division.

341. There are no mines or manufactures of importance. The chief manufactures are cotton weaving, embroidery, gold and silver work, pottery and shell-work. The cotton weaving and pottery industries continued to decline throughout the quinquennium, but the shell-workers, gold and silversmiths and manufacturers of Kashida cloth still find their business profitable. In Backergunge mustard oil, *charkhana* for mosquito curtains, sacrificial knives, mats of various kinds, earthenware, agricultural implements and molasses are manufactured. The steam oil-mill at Jhalakati (in Backergunge) continued to work successfully. A similar mill at Dacca ceased to work in 1904.

Working of the Indian Factories Act.

[Annual Report on the working of the Indian Factories Act for 1904 : Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India, Section XIX.]

Number of Factories and System of work.

342. The total number of factories at the close of the year under report was 267, as against 259 at the close of 1903. Thirty-four new factories were brought under the operation of the Act during the year, viz., 2 in Calcutta, 1 in Midnapore, 4 in Howrah, 5 in the 24-Parganas, 6 in Pabna, 14 in Dacca, 1 in Shahabad and 1 in Chittagong; while 26 factories were removed from the list, viz., 1 in Calcutta, 3 in Howrah, 2 in the 24-Parganas, 15 in Dacca, 2 in Pabna and 1 in each of the districts of Shahabad, Saran and Champaran. Work was carried on in 108 factories by shifts or sets, in 106 with midday stoppages, in 11 under a system of shifts and midday stoppages combined, and in 26 with other arrangements. No returns were submitted by 4 factories; 6 were at work for part of the year only, and 6 were inactive throughout the year. The average daily number of operatives (men, women and children) employed was 234,802, as compared with 213,014 in the year 1903.

Inspections.

343. Inspections were made of 56 factories once, of 25 twice, of 62 three times, and of 115 more than three times. Of the three factories shown as uninspected, one in the 24-Parganas came under the operation of the Act towards the end of the year, one in Dacca was closed early in the year, and the third in Muzaffarpur appears to have been in fact visited by the Magistrate and inadvertently omitted from the statement. The inspections were generally attended with useful results, the suggestions and remarks made by the inspecting officers receiving due attention from the managers concerned.

Sanitary arrangements and ventilation.

344. The sanitary condition and arrangements of the factories are reported to have been satisfactory. The premises generally were clean, well ventilated and free from overcrowding. The Special Inspector states that recently several additional mills have adopted septic tank latrines. The general question connected with these was referred to a Special Committee last year, and their report is still under consideration. It is noticed with satisfaction that in several factories fans have been provided in the spinning-rooms with a view to reducing the excessive heat.

Quarters for operatives.

345. Most of the larger factories in the Presidency, Burdwan and Dacca Divisions are provided with quarters for operatives. At Gouripur, Kankinara and Kamarhati, and in other mill-settlements along the river Hooghly, considerable additions to the cooly-lines were made during the year. The houses appear to have been as a rule built on an excellent plan, and to be high, well drained and so placed as to secure good ventilation. The insanitary *bustees* occupied by operatives, especially within the Municipalities of Howrah and Serampore, are gradually being improved by the opening up of roads and open spaces and by better drainage.

Water-supply.

346. The supply of water is favourably reported upon and said to have been adequate, except in the case of some mills in the district of Hooghly.

Health of operatives.

347. The general health of the operatives appears to have been good during the year under report.

Wages and general condition of operatives.

348. The Magistrate of Howrah reports that the rates of wages given to operatives in factories are higher than those for similar labour elsewhere, and seem sufficient to attract labourers from other parts of the country. The general condition of the operatives was satisfactory. The rules regarding the employment of women and children are said to have been generally observed in all factories.

349. The total number of accidents during the year was 721, as against 652 in the previous year. Of these, 401 were of a slight, and 292 of a serious, nature, while 28 proved fatal. The increase in the number of accidents in the Presidency Division corresponds, as is pointed out by the Commissioner, with the increase in the number of operatives. A description of those that were fatal is given in paragraph 10 of the report of the Special Inspector. The machinery in the factories was usually sufficiently well fenced and protected, where dangerous. **Accidents.**

350. There were no prosecutions instituted under the Act during the year. **Prosecutions.**

Trade.

FOREIGN SEA-BORNE TRADE.

[Report on the Maritime Trade of Bengal for 1904-1905.]

351. The trade of the Province rose in 1904-1905 by 9·7 per cent. in value, and represents the highest total hitherto reached. Both imports and exports of merchandise increased, but exports of treasure declined by 22·3 lakhs. **Foreign Trade.**

The extent to which the foreign trade of the Province is centred in Calcutta is apparent from the following figures of the value of the trade in 1904-1905 (000's omitted):—

	Province.	Calcutta.
	Rs.	Rs.
Merchandise—		
Imports	38,61,59	38,35,25
Exports	64,34,30	61,32,50
Treasure—		
Imports	10,44,43	10,44,43
Exports	17,71	17,71

352. At Chittagong there is a small import trade in railway material, salt, metals, cotton piece-goods, machinery and tea-chests. The export trade likewise is limited to a very few articles; but, since the completion of the Assam-Bengal Railway and the facilities for shipment to the United Kingdom provided by starting a direct line of steamers, the export trade in jute and tea has risen to considerable importance, the values during 1904-1905 being 105 lakhs for jute and 145 lakhs for tea. The remaining export is rice, which is also the staple export of the Orissa ports of Balasore, Cuttack and Puri. The aggregate trade of the subordinate ports is, however, in most articles so small a fraction of the whole that in the paragraphs below, reviewing the course of the trade in each important item, the remarks made apply to Calcutta only, unless the trade at any other port is specifically mentioned.

Imports of Merchandise.

[Report on the Maritime Trade of Bengal for 1904-1905.]

The 38·35 crores, which represented the value of imported merchandise, were distributed as follows among the principal articles in the import trade (000's omitted):—

				Rs.
Cotton piece-goods,	Rs. 17,14,49			
„ other fabrics,	„ 88,76	} ...	...	18,66,86
„ yarn,	„ 63,61			
Iron and steel ...		...	...	3,03,05
Sugar		...	...	2,09,52
Machinery and millwork		...	...	1,90,12
Petroleum—				
Kerosene,	Rs. 1,22,01	} ...	...	1,44,28
Other sorts,	„ 22,27			
Woollen goods ...		...	...	98,30
Hardware and cutlery		...	...	88,02
Apparel ...		...	...	57,11
Salt		...	...	55,95
Drugs and narcotics		...	...	53,01
Liquors ...		...	...	48,08
Railway material ...		...	...	47,12

Cotton goods and yarns.

353. Over 48 per cent. of the aggregate is represented by the trade in cotton goods and yarns. The total value of the imports is the highest recorded, and shews an increase of 307 lakhs, or nearly 20 per cent. on the figures for 1903-1904, which however represent a year of unusual depression. Coloured, printed and dyed piece-goods alone were imported in smaller quantities than in the previous year, but the number of yards of grey and of white piece-goods imported rose by 11 and 12 per cent. respectively. As a whole, imports of piece-goods shew an increase of 9 per cent. in quantity and 18 per cent. in value. Similarly, in the case of twist and yarn, the quantity of the imports shews a rise of 14 per cent. and the value a rise of 28 per cent.

Metals.

354. Imports of metals in the past year reached a higher value than in any previous year. This result is due to the very large increase in the imports of galvanised corrugated sheets for building purposes. The remaining descriptions of iron taken as a whole shew a decrease in the value of imports, as do all other metals, except tin (the price of which remained at a high level throughout the year) and German silver.

The value of the imports of machinery and mill-work also was higher than any previously recorded, and exceeded last year's figures by 49 lakhs. The most conspicuous increase is in the value of Jute Mill machinery which rose from 50 to 94 lakhs.

Liquors.

355. The total value of the imports of liquors fell from 49$\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs to 48. Whisky and malt liquors were imported in considerably less quantities, while brandy and "other sorts of spirits" show an increase.

Sugar.

356. The average price of all refined sugar imported rose from Rs. 9-5-10 per cwt. in 1903-1904 to Rs. 9-7-6 in 1904-1905. The imports of all sugar, excluding molasses, rose in quantity by 12 per cent., and in value by 13 per cent. Higher prices were experienced throughout the year, in consequence of the cessation of export bounties, a concomitant increase in the European consumption, a shortage in the Continental beet crop and the extensive speculation to which this gave rise. As a result of the abolition of sugar bounties, imports from the United Kingdom which were valued at 28$\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs in 1903-1904 dropped to 8$\frac{3}{4}$ lakhs in 1904-1905, as home refiners had no longer the advantage of selling non-bounty-fed sugar free of countervailing duties. Exports from Austria-Hungary on the other hand increased from Rs. 5 to 29 lakhs, and those from Germany from Rs. 6,000 to 8 lakhs. Imports from Mauritius declined by 53 per cent. from 34$\frac{1}{2}$ to 16 lakhs, in consequence of a partial failure of the sugarcane crop. The direct trade between Java and Calcutta, which has been steadily increasing throughout the last five years, shows an increase of 39 lakhs, or 50 per cent. for 1904-1905. The value of the Java sugar is now 58 per cent. of the total value of refined sugar imported into Calcutta.

Petroleum.

357. The importations of kerosene oil from Russia and the United States, which have declined each year since 1901-1902, fell from 23 million gallons to 13. This was more than counterbalanced, however, by the larger imports from the Straits Settlements, Borneo and Sumatra, which sent altogether 20 million gallons of oil to Bengal in 1904-1905, as compared with 6 millions in 1903-1904. The increase in the imports from the Straits was over 9 million gallons. The amount of kerosene imported in the course of the coasting trade from Burma was 34 million gallons, as compared with 26 millions in the previous year.

Woollen piece-goods.

358. There was a remarkable increase, due in part to a cold and prolonged winter season, in the imports of woollen goods, and the total increase in value amounted to 37 per cent. Piece-goods rose by 36 per cent., and shawls by as much as 39 per cent.

Salt.

359. Imports of salt increased in quantity by 7 per cent. More salt was received from England and the Red Sea ports, but less from Germany. Prices were low throughout the year, the average price per 100 maunds of Liverpool salt being Rs. 48-10-2, or nearly 10 per cent. less than last year's average.

The articles enumerated above constitute the bulk of the import trade at Calcutta, and it is unnecessary to notice in detail the other articles which enter into the trade, the items individually being of relatively small value.

360. Imports from the United Kingdom represent about 62 per cent. of the total import trade of Calcutta in the year 1904-1905, imports from other European countries represent about 10 per cent. and imports from Australasia about 14 per cent. of the whole. Of the remainder, about 10 per cent. comes from other countries in Asia, leaving a very small balance to be divided between America and Africa. Import trade of Calcutta with European countries.

Exports of Merchandise.

[Report on the Maritime Trade of Bengal for 1904-1905.]

361. The value of the export trade of the Province rose from about 57 crores in 1903-1904 to 61 crores in 1904-1905, the chief increases being in hides and grain. Export trade.

Long as is the list of articles exported from Calcutta, the greater part of the value of the trade attaches to the few articles enumerated below (000's omitted):—

		Rs.
Jute, raw, Rs. 10,77,99 }		
„ manufactured „ 9,88,72 }	... ...	20,66,71
Tea		6,20,29
Opium		7,58,32
Hides and skins		5,75,43
Grain and pulse		8,29,87
Oilseeds		4,58,86
Lac		3,01,04
Cotton, raw		83,07
Indigo		56,08

The value of jute and of the goods manufactured from it (gunny-bags and cloth) represents more than a third of the aggregate value of the foreign trade of Calcutta, and if account be taken of the great quantity of jute manufactures exported from Calcutta by rail and coastwise for the packing of Indian produce together with the quantity used on the spot for the same purpose, the importance to the trade of Calcutta of the jute fields of Eastern Bengal and the jute-mills established along the banks of the Hooghly is still more striking. A rough idea of the gross value may be formed by adding to the exports of raw jute, the annual production of the jute-mills which for the year 1904-1905 has been estimated to be about 1,432 lakhs, or 9½ millions sterling. Jute and Jute goods.

The chief feature of the year was the scarcity of the raw material and consequent high price. The season was not altogether favourable, and the final forecast estimated the crop as one of 13½ annas. The area, however, was estimated to be some 29 per cent. greater than in the previous year. Exports of raw jute from Calcutta were less than those of any year since 1899-1900, the United Kingdom and France taking together some 46,000 tons less than in 1903-1904. The average price of the raw jute exported, however, rose by 9 per cent. Exports from Chittagong show a small decrease.

The export of gunny-bags shews the same features. The quantity exported was less than in any of the four preceding years, while the value was greater than that in any previous year. The United Kingdom received over 5½ million bags less than in 1903-1904, and Australia 9 million bags less. On the other hand South America received 9 million bags more, and now ranks as the largest importer with 32 million bags.

The trade in gunny-cloth shews an increase in the quantity as well as in the value of the exports. For, although the export to the United States of America (which takes over 60 per cent. of all the gunny-cloth exported) fell off by 13 million yards, the quantity imported by South America and the United Kingdom, the next best customers, increased by over 30 million yards.

362. Exports of tea to the United Kingdom and foreign countries amounted to 197 millions, of which 38 million pounds were shipped from Chittagong. This total is the highest recorded and exceeds last year's by 2 million pounds. The crop was not particularly good in quality, and the proportion of higher class tea was smaller than usual. The average price of tea sold in Calcutta was 5 annas 6 pies as compared with 5 annas 10 pies in 1903-1904. The position of Calcutta as a distributing centre continues to improve. The quantity offered at the local sales rose from 59 to 64 million pounds and shipments to outside markets from 36 to 43 million pounds. After the United Tea.

Kingdom (121 million pounds), the next largest importers of Indian tea are Canada (10 million) and Russia (9 million). Exports to Canada show an increase of 35 per cent. over last year's figures, and are about six times as great as they were five years ago. Exports to Russia show an increase of $4\frac{3}{4}$ million pounds, or over 100 per cent., as compared with 1903-1904. But against this must be set a corresponding decrease in the exports to China. Formerly Indian tea was imported into Russia *viâ* Dalny and Port Arthur, and the figures of this trade were included in those of the trade with China. The Port Arthur route being closed by the war, there is a decline of 5 million pounds in the quantity of tea shewn as exported to China.

Opium. 363. The exports of opium decreased in quantity by 363 chests, but the value rose by over 7 per cent. The Straits took 1,860 fewer chests than in 1903-1904; most of the opium sent to the Straits is re-shipped to Hong-Kong, China, Siam, and the Malay States. There was a decrease of 1,550 in the number of chests sent to Cochin China. The maximum price was Rs. 1,621 per chest in February 1905, and the average for the year of Rs. 1,587 is the highest reached since 1861-1862.

Hides and Skins. 364. The total quantity exported rose by 14 per cent., and the value improved by 19 per cent. Germany is the principal importer of raw hides, taking 43 per cent. of the total exports, while the United States received 80 per cent. (over 200 lakhs worth) of the total quantity of raw skins exported. The trade in raw skins (253 lakhs) is the largest ever recorded.

Grain and Pulse. 365. Exports of grain and pulse to foreign countries again shew a very remarkable rise, amounting to 50 per cent. in quantity and 40 per cent. in value. The quantity of rice sent to foreign countries increased by 22 per cent. on account of larger shipments to Ceylon and Arabia. The wheat figures are still more striking, the rise in the quantity exported being 78 per cent. and in value 70 per cent. The value of the wheat exported to foreign countries has risen from one lakh in 1900-1901 to 342 lakhs last year. The crop in the United Provinces was good, and the short crops in the United States and United Kingdom created a brisk demand.

Oilseeds. 366. Linseed provides about nine-tenths of the total exports of oilseeds. The quantity shipped in 1904-1905 was the largest on record, and amounted to nearly 7 million cwts. The world's production, however, was enormous, and prices were very low. The United Kingdom took 55 per cent. of the quantity shipped from Calcutta, and Germany 33 per cent. Rape seed decreased in quantity by 10 per cent. and in value by 29 per cent.

Indigo. 367. As in the previous year, a slight increase in the quantity of indigo exported was accompanied by a considerable decline, in this case 6 per cent. in value. In the last two years the quantity exported has increased from 29,400 cwts. to 30,000 cwts. But the value has fallen from just under 66 lakhs to 56 lakhs, and the average price per Indian maund from Rs. 165 to Rs. 137. The season generally was unfavourable, and the average quality of the indigo produced was inferior. Japan, which until recently has been one of the best customers for natural indigo, received no more than 59 cwts. in 1904-1905, the chief reason being the differential taxation which imposed an extra impost of about $1\frac{1}{2}d.$ per lb. on Indian indigo. This burden has been removed with effect from March 1905. Exports to the United States, which take more Indian indigo than any country except England, decreased from 7,600 to 4,100 cwts. The countries which increased their imports were Austria-Hungary, France, Germany and Egypt.

Lac. 368. The value of lac continued to increase beyond the high figure which was reached in 1903-1904. The average export price was Rs. 128 per cwt., as compared with Rs. 116, Rs. 78, Rs. 62 and Rs. 47 in the four previous years, respectively. The quantity exported was slightly larger than that of 1903-1904, but was less than that of 1902-1903.

Cotton, raw. 369. Exports of raw cotton from Calcutta increased by 12 per cent. in quantity and 13 per cent. in value, although the total amount sent from India was very much less than that of the preceding year.

Export trade of Calcutta with European countries. 370. Of the total export trade of Calcutta, the principal shares were taken by the United Kingdom (29 per cent.), United States (13 per cent.), Germany (11 per cent.) and China (11 per cent.). The other European countries took 13 per cent. between them, and the Straits Settlements and South America

4 per cent. and 3 per cent., respectively. The relative position of the different countries has varied very little since last year.

Chittagong and Orissa Ports.

[Report on the Maritime Trade of Bengal for 1904-1905 : Foreign Trade of the Subordinate Ports.]

371. The running of a direct line of steamers from this port to the United Kingdom, and the through connection with Assam established by the completion of the Assam-Bengal Railway, have caused a large increase in the foreign trade, the total value being 298·27 lakhs against 250·66 lakhs in 1903-1904. The main features of the trade are indicated in the following table 000's in Rs. omitted):— Chittagong.

	Imports.			Exports.	
	1903-1904.	1904-1905.		1903-1904.	1904-1905.
Machinery ...	0·49	5·65	Rice ...	23·57	22·02
Metals ...	1·70	4·97	Jute (raw)	109·22	104·62
Tea-chests ...	2·16	4·31	Tea ...	102·41	145·10
Salt	2·32	4·14	Other articles	18	·20
Railway materials ...	7·16	2·43			
Cotton piece-goods ...	·40	1·86			
Other articles ...	1·05	2·97			
TOTAL ...	15·28	26·33	TOTAL ...	235·38	271·94

372. The foreign trade of the Orissa ports is of no importance, and represented in merchandise a value of 30 lakhs in 1904-1905 against 35 lakhs in the preceding year. The only article is rice, and more than one-half of this was exported from Cuttack. Orissa Ports.

Frontier Trade.

[Report on the trade of Bengal with Nepal, Tibet, Sikkim and Bhutan for 1904-1905, Tables I and II.]

373. The trade with each of the trans-frontier countries in merchandise is stated in the figures appended (lakhs of rupees):—

	Imports.		Exports.	
	1903-1904.	1904-1905.	1903-1904.	1904-1905.
Nepal	146·94	150·11	88·98	95·51
Tibet	3·57	4·11	3·92	7·39
Sikkim	3·10	2·35	3·11	3·61
Bhutan	7·01	5·60	1·19	1·38

The bulk of the imports from Nepal consists of agricultural and pastoral products, and the trade is therefore liable to large fluctuations from seasonal causes. Food-grains are credited with more than half of the total value of the exports from Nepal to India, and the principal variety is rice, both husked and unhusked, the exports of which were valued at nearly 70 lakhs. Live animals were imported to the value of 27 lakhs. The cultivation of jute in Nepal appears to be still increasing, and the imports in 1904-1905 (204,400 maunds) are 7 per cent. above the figures of 1903-1904 and 189 per cent. above those of 1898-1899. The other principal imports are hides and skins, *ghi*, and oilseeds, mainly linseed, mustard and rapeseed. The chief staples of export are cotton goods, which formed 43 per cent. of the total exports in 1904-1905, metals, petroleum, provisions (other than fish and *ghi*), salt and sugar. The total under each of these heads shows a considerable improvement, as compared with the figures of the previous year, the chief increases being in foreign piece-goods (16 per cent.) and metals other than brass, copper and iron (34 per cent.).

The trade of Bengal with Tibet, which is registered at Yatung, was disorganized by the military operations that took place during the year. The British Mission did not return until late in 1904, and, as the passes are in most cases closed by snow in December, there was no opportunity for a complete recovery in the volume of trade. But, although the total value

is still 35 per cent. below the value of the trade in 1902-1903, it is 53 per cent. above the value of 1903-1904. The chief article of import was as usual wool (value Rs. 2,68,000), and the chief article of export foreign piece-goods (value Rs. 1,95,000).

The trade with Sikkim was, as usual, on a very small scale. Fruits, nuts, vegetables and cereals were the principal articles of import, and cotton goods and salt of export. The value of the total trade with Bhutan depends chiefly on the value of the timber exported to Bengal. This item shews a decrease of 36 per cent., and the total trade a decrease of 15 per cent.

Coasting Trade.

[Report on the Maritime Trade of Bengal for 1904-1905.]

Coasting Trade.

374. Of this trade, 89 per cent. of the value appertains to Calcutta, of which the actual figures were (000's in Rs. omitted):—

	1903-1904.	1904-1905.
Imports—	Rs.	Rs.
Merchandise	4,94,48	5,55,04
Treasure	9,53	7,51
Exports—		
Merchandise	6,66,10	7,32,35
Treasure	59,92	57,15
TOTAL ...	12,30,03	13,52,05

The increase in the imports of merchandise was due chiefly to a much larger trade in kerosene-oil from Burma, and also to larger imports of grey cotton piece-goods from Bombay, refined sugar from Madras and teak-wood from Burma. The transactions in silver were again less than in the previous year.

The increase in exports of merchandise was mainly due to larger shipments of unmanufactured tobacco to Burma, coal to Karachi, rice and kerosene-oil to Madras, and gunny-bags to Bombay, Karachi and Rangoon. The exports of silver to other Provinces were some 2 lakhs less than last year, and the largest share went as usual to the minor ports in Burma.

Chittagong.

375. The total value of the coasting trade fell from 117½ to 112 lakhs, or by over 4 per cent. Imports declined from 60¾ to 57 lakhs, and exports from 56½ to 55 lakhs. There was an increase of 6 lakhs in the value of the kerosene-oil imported from Rangoon, one of 2 lakhs in the value of metals from Calcutta, while the receipts of raw jute and apparel declined by 5 lakhs and 3 lakhs, respectively. Exports of rice advanced by 3 lakhs owing to larger shipments to Cochin; but on the other hand the shipments of raw cotton declined by 4 lakhs, owing to the crop having been damaged by rain.

Orissa Ports.

376. The ports of Cuttack and Puri have practically no import trade and rice and paddy are the only products exported. The total exports for the two ports shew a decrease on account of the smaller quantity of rice from Cuttack. The imports into Balasore declined by over a lakh, while exports increased by over 5 lakhs on account of larger shipments of grain and pulse to Calcutta and Madras.

Railway and River Trade.

[Report on the Trade carried by Rail and River in Bengal in 1904-1905. Tables I and II.]

Railway and River trade.

377. The main divisions of this trade and its estimated value are exhibited in the following table:—

		Trade of Calcutta with Bengal.		Trade of Calcutta with other Provinces.		Trade of Bengal with other Provinces, but not with Calcutta.	
		Import.	Export.	Import.	Export.	Import.	Export.
1903-1904	Mds.	14,25,43,702	2,75,12,845	2,35,82,748	73,81,082	2,02,45,080	3,28,86,794
	Rs.	40,14,30,096	23,90,72,238	17,88,06,766	11,23,58,920	8,48,80,953	6,81,70,350
1904-1905	Mds.	19,63,25,843	3,21,42,443	3,07,64,522	83,83,409	2,16,71,350	3,46,72,097
	Rs.	45,92,02,502	27,51,08,317	18,66,71,635	12,78,91,493	9,02,27,953	8,26,47,223

Of the total value of the imports into Calcutta (64 crores), imports from Bengal districts represent 71 per cent., from the United Provinces 17 per cent., from Assam 7 per cent., and the balance 5 per cent. from other Provinces. Of the total exports (40 crores), 68 per cent. went to Bengal districts, 17 per cent. to the United Provinces, 7 per cent. to Assam, and the remainder 8 per cent. to other provinces.

The principal articles of imports into Calcutta from Bengal were jute (11 crores of rupees), coal (6 crores), and rice (4 crores), and these represent about 46 per cent. of the total imports from Bengal. The imports from other provinces consist principally of tea from Assam, wheat, opium and oilseeds from the United Provinces, and raw cotton and hides and skins from the United Provinces and Central Provinces and Berar. The exports from Calcutta to Bengal comprise mainly cotton manufactures, metals, salt, sugar, railway-plant and oils; while the exports to other provinces consist principally of cotton goods, metals, sugar, gunny-bags, salt, oils, grain and pulse.

The principal articles imported into Bengal from the United Provinces were opium, sugar, oilseeds, cotton goods, gram and pulse, and wheat; from Assam, tea, paddy, timber, coal, hides and skins; and from the Central Provinces, railway plant and rolling-stock, cotton manufactures (chiefly twist and yarn), and rice; while the chief exports from Bengal to the United Provinces consisted of lac, rice, kerosene, gunny-bags and cloth, tobacco, railway plant and rolling-stock, sugar, coal, metals and spices; to Assam of spices, rice, sugar, kerosene oil, and gram and pulse; and to the Central Provinces of sugar, coal, raw silk and kerosene oil.

Buildings.

[The details of outlay by the Public Works Department will be found in the Finance Accounts issued annually by the Examiner of Public Works Accounts.]

378. The total expenditure on works during the year amounted to Rs. 1,34,94,800. The Public Works Department spent Rs. 87,15,161—Rs. 27,00,821 on Imperial Works, Rs. 58,37,918 on Provincial Works, and Rs. 1,76,422 on Local and Contribution Works. The balance (Rs. 47,79,639) was spent by the local authorities.

I.—IMPERIAL WORKS.

379. The work of addition and alteration to the sea-wall at Chandipur was in progress. **Military Works.**

380. At Salkea additional golas for the bonding of salt were under construction and improvements were made in the existing golas. **Civil works. Salt.**

381. Several works in the Patna Opium Factory were in progress. Weighment and settlement centres at Raffiganj, Worsleyganj and Mushrak were under construction. **Opium.**

382. Combined Post and Telegraph Offices at Siliguri, Chandpur, Jamalpur (Mymensingh district) and Bihar were completed. The combined office at Laheria Serai (Darbhanga) and the new Telegraph Office at Mymensingh were nearly finished. A new Post and Telegraph Office at Kishanganj, the remodelling of the Post and Telegraph Office at Jamalpur (Monghyr district), and additions to the Post Office at Pabna were in progress. Materials were collected for a new Post and Telegraph Office at Brahmanbaria and for additions and alterations to the building at Bankura. Land was acquired for a new Telegraph Office at Dacca. **Post and Telegraph Offices.**

383. The premises No. 14, Crooked Lane, Calcutta, were acquired and adapted for the accommodation of the Government House guard. **Vice-regal Residences.**

384. The Foreign and Military Secretariat buildings were practically completed and occupied in November. The system of working Baildon's patent punkhas in the Imperial Secretariat buildings with "Simplex" motors was tried, but failed and had to be abandoned. **Secretariat Buildings.**

II.—PROVINCIAL WORKS.

385. The Municipal Office and Honorary Magistrate's Court at Suri, the Certificate Office for the Chapra Collectorate, and the new Magistrate's Court **Collectorates.**

at Muzaffarpur were completed. An upper storey was added to the Bankura Collectorate. A record-room was constructed for the Arrah Collectorate and for the Assistant Settlement Officer at Purnea, and the record racks in the Malda Collectorate underwent additions and alterations. The construction of a new Court-house for the Deputy Magistrates at Noakhali was commenced.

Civil Courts. 386. The new building for the accommodation of three Sub-Judges' Courts and Offices and the extension of the Munsifs' Court and the Pleaders' Library at Alipore were nearly completed. Additional accommodation was provided for the records of the District Judge's Courts at Alipore and Noakhali, but the racks at the latter place had not been supplied. Record racks were fitted to two rooms of the Judge's Court at Midnapore, and materials collected for additions and alterations to the Court-house. Single Munsifis were constructed or nearly completed at Chuadanga, Burdwan and Raghunathpur, and double Munsifis at Kishanganj, Chandpur, Baruipur and Bolpur. A treble Munsifi at Narail and a double Munsifi at Basirhat were under construction. The quadruple Munsifi at Perojpur was finished. A building was acquired at Jangipur for the Munsifs' Courts and residences. Additions were carried out to the Munsifis at Bogra, Katihar, Satkania and Sitamarhi. Materials were collected for single Munsifis at Sherpur and Kishorganj, and for a double Munsifi at Lakhipur.

Subdivisional Courts and Residences. 387. The Subdivisional buildings at Balurghat were completed, and materials collected for the buildings required at Dhanbaid. A Subdivisional Court and new tahsil office were constructed at Kishanganj and Banki, respectively. The premises No. 75 Parade Road, Barrackpore, were converted into a Subdivisional Court. Additional accommodation was provided in several Subdivisional Courts. Subdivisional residences were constructed at Manikganj and Jamalpur (Mymensingh), and residences at Sirajganj and Narayanganj were in progress. The residence at Phulbani was completed, but its thatched roof and some doors were destroyed by fire. Improvements were effected in the residence at Deoghur.

Secretariat Offices. 388. A new block was constructed at Writers' Buildings for the accommodation of the office of the Board of Revenue and other offices.

Munsif's Residences. 389. Three sets of Munsifs' quarters at Chandpur, two sets each at Satkhira, Lakhipur and Munshiganj, and one set each at Balurghat, Thakurgaon, Sundip, Iswarganj and Hajipur were completed. Three more sets of quarters at Munshiganj, and one set each at Kishanganj, Chatra and Bhadrak were under construction. Improvements were carried out to the double set of quarters at Nilphamari, and materials were collected for two additional sets of quarters at Patuakhali and for one set at Naugaon.

Circuit-houses. 390. The circuit-houses at Cuttack and Asansol, the conversion of the Khas Mahal Office at Daltonganj into a circuit-house, and the additions and alterations to the Ranchi circuit-house were completed. The property known as "Chajjubagh" at Bankipore was acquired for use as a residence for His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor and for providing a circuit-house for officials.

Excise. 391. Additions and alterations were made in the Gaya distillery. Improvements were carried out or in progress in the water-supply arrangements in the Giridih, Patna and Arrah distilleries. Several new *ganja* godowns were constructed.

Monuments and Antiquities. 392. A marble tablet was fixed on Hastings Lodge at Rishra. Under the instructions of His Excellency the Viceroy steps were taken for the erection of a suitable memorial on the battle-field of Plassey.

High Court. 393. The work of extending the High Court was commenced.

Jails. 394. The construction of the new Presidency Jail buildings at Alipore was continued. Extensive improvements in the Rajshahi Jail were in hand. At the Chittagong Jail one double-storied barrack was completed, and the construction of a second double-storied barrack, hospital, segregation ward and European ward was in progress. A two-storied hospital was built in the Barisal Jail, and a new hospital was under erection in the Malda Jail. The Sub-Jail at Supaul underwent additions and alterations, and additional buildings were under construction in the Kishanganj lock-up. Improvements were carried out or were in progress in several other Jails and Sub-Jails.

Police. 395. Barracks for police constables were constructed or in progress at Darjeeling, Galsi, Ballygunge, Jessore, Krishnagar and Chak Kalan. Outpost

stations were erected at Charnock, Dhakuria, Santragachi, Noapara and Ulubarisa and materials collected for the construction of similar buildings at Behala, Bantra, Khurut and Bakshara. At Bhagalpur the construction of an upper storey to the Police Training School and temporary barracks for the constables were in progress. Additions and alterations were carried out to the Police Hospital buildings in Amherst Street, Calcutta, and materials collected for the police-station at Taltollah. A branch station for the Calcutta Fire Brigade was constructed at Garden Reach. Quarters for several Inspectors of Police and Civil Hospital Assistants attached to the Police-lines were built or in progress.

396. At Dacca the new buildings for the College and the Ahsanulla School of Engineering were in progress, the Training College was nearly finished, and the Madrassa was extended. Some additions were carried out and further additions were in progress at the Dow Hill School for Girls and the Victoria Boys' School, Kurseong. At Cuttack the new block for the Ravenshaw College was commenced, and the reconstruction of the condemned portion of the Ravenshaw Collegiate School was completed. The Dumka Zilla School was reconstructed, improvements were effected in the ventilation of the Mymensingh Zilla School, and an additional building was commenced for the Hazaribagh Zilla School. Additions and alterations were made in the Alipore Reformatory School, and the same was being done at the Hazaribagh Reformatory School. Land was acquired for the construction of a hostel for the Patna College, and materials were collected for the construction of a hostel for the Muhammadan students attached to the Murshidabad High School. Educational.

397. At the Medical College, Calcutta, a four-storeyed building to accommodate the nurses was under construction; good progress was made in the supply of fittings and furniture for the new Pathological block; the sanitary fittings and appliances in the Ezra Hospital were entirely remodelled; and electric lights and fans were installed in the Eden Hospital. The reconstruction of the Campbell Hospital, Sealdah, was started. At the Cuttack General Hospital, an operating-room, a female medical and surgical ward, an eye ward, and an additional class-room for the Medical students were completed; and a dissecting-room for the female students and a dispensary for outdoor patients were under construction. A Central Hospital at Balasore was in progress. A civil dispensary was constructed at Buxa, and the reconstruction of the dispensary at Naxalbari was in progress. Nine mortuaries were constructed and two were in progress during the year. Medical.

398. The Registration Office at Chittagong was completed. Registration.

399. The new Hospital at Muzaffarpur was nearly completed. The new Diocesan Girls' School, Darjeeling, was finished. The hostel for the Bihar School of Engineering and the Dufferin Moslem Hostel, Dacca, were in progress. Contribution Works.

400. Houses were acquired, constructed or put in hand for the Collectors of Nadia, Bankura, Rajshahi and Cuttack; the Civil Surgeon of Mymensingh and Puri; the District Judge of Cuttack; the District Superintendent of Police, Patna; the Assistant Superintendents of Police at Patna City and Sirajganj; and the Executive Engineer at Saidpur. The "Paikpara House" at Jessore was leased for the residence of the District and Sessions Judge. Materials were collected for the construction of quarters for the Deputy Commissioner of Jalpaiguri, the District Superintendent of Police, Puri, and the Deputy Inspector-General of Police at Bankipore. Bungalows were built at Raxaul and Agartola (Tippera) for the use of the Resident in Nepal and the Political Agent, respectively. Special repairs and improvements to several quarters of officials were carried out or were in progress. Official Residences.

401. An underground building for the storage of rinderpest sera was constructed at the Veterinary Institution at Belgachia, and additional land was acquired for the extension of the Institution. The properties known as "Meadow Bank" and "Magdala Cottage" at Darjeeling were purchased for the accommodation of certain offices and the native clerks of the Secretariat and other offices. Miscellaneous.

Communications.

402. A dâk bungalow with out-houses was constructed at the Contai Road Railway Station. The question of classing it as an inspection bungalow is under consideration. Materials have also been collected for a well. Midnapore.

Darjeeling Jalpaiguri.

403. The most important works in progress or completed during the year were as follows:—

		Rs.
1.	New High Level Tista Valley Road, including Binik Bungalow	8,51,630
2.	Special repairs to Darjeeling Hill Cart Road, 1903-1904 ...	26,166
3.	Repairs to bridges and protective works, Darjeeling Hill Cart Road	34,266
4.	Special repairs to Darjeeling Hill Cart Road, 1904-1905, and repairs to Panchanai spurs	36,342
5.	Ramshaihat-Gairkata Road	67,691
6.	Rajabhatkhowa-Jaigaon Road (in three sections)	64,533
7.	Banarhat-Chamurchi Road	21,314
8.	Gairkata-Dhupguri Road	46,445
9.	Jainti-Rydak Road (in three sections)	69,508

Of the above named works, Nos. 2 and 3 were completed during the year under review.

The work on the new High Level Tista Valley Road (item 1), which was commenced in January 1904, was re-started in December 1904 and during the last working season, all the earthwork and rock-cutting in miles 17 to 20 were completed; also about five-sixths of the soling was done and metal collected.

Work on the 13th and 14th miles was recommenced in February 1905, but was stopped for 14 days to allow the traffic on the lower road to be resumed. Work was again started on the 3rd March 1905, and good progress made during the month in earthwork and rock-cutting.

About two-thirds of the special repairs to Darjeeling Hill Cart Road (1904-1905), and repairs to Panchanai spurs (item 4), were done during the year.

The Ramshahi-Gairkata and the Banarhat-Chamurchi Roads (items 5 and 7) were completed, and the Jainti-Rydak Road (item 9) nearly so, during the year.

As regards Rajabhatkhowa-Jaigaon Road (item 6), earthwork was completed on all the three sections, and bridgework, seven-eighths on the 1st and 3rd sections and three-fourths on the 2nd section, was completed by the end of the year.

On the Gairkata-Dhupguri Road (item 8), earthwork was completed and pile-driving of seven bridges completed by the end of the year and nearly all the bridge materials brought to site.

Arboriculture, Darjeeling.

404. New trees were planted and the existing ones maintained during the year along the following roads, and a sum of Rs. 885 was expended on that account:—

(1) New Cutcherry Road, Siliguri.
(2) Ganges-Darjeeling Road.
(3) Siliguri Station Feeder Road.
(4) Matigara Hill Cart Road.
(5) Matigara-Kurseong Road.
(6) Garidhura-Nuxalbari Road.
(7) Matigara Nuxalbari Road.
(8) Siliguri-Sevoke Road.

Darjeeling.

405. Sanction was also accorded to the construction of a new road from the Darjeeling Hill Cart Road to the Matigara-Kurseong Road near Kurseong; and for special repairs to the road from Jore Bungalow to Tista *viâ* Peshok and the metalling of the 1 to 10 miles of the Tista Rishi Road.

Sikkim.

406. The survey of two alternative routes, viz., (1) Odlabari to Arjarha and (2) Odlabari to Gangtok *viâ* Labha and Ari, from the railway on the plains into Sikkim was investigated during the year.

The Siliguri-Gangtok Road which formed the main line of communication for the Tibet Mission, was made over to the Military authorities from 1st July 1904 to 15th November 1904 for maintenance during the progress of the Mission.

Several temporary huts were erected along the main routes of advance of the troops in connection with the late Tibet Mission. Thorough repairs, etc., were done to the following roads among others during the year:—

(1) Lachen Road, sections 2 to 8, and
(2) Gnatong Road.

These were required for military purposes during the Mission.

407. *Rangamati-Mahulsari Road.*—The roadwork was started and the alignment completed; some timber bridges were constructed on several gaps on the road during the year at a cost of Rs. 8,000. Chittagong Hill Tracts.

Bandarban-Suvalong Dák Road.—The widening of the road and easing the gradient together with the construction of some new timber bridges on the gaps of the road were completed during the year at a cost of Rs. 900.

408. The demarcation of the roadside lands along the Cuttack, Sonepur-Cuttack, Sambalpur and Harbhanga-Phulbani Roads was in progress. Cuttack Angul.

Metalling the 3rd section of the Cuttack-Angul Road, the improvement of the 2nd section of the Cuttack-Sambalpur Road and the construction of a fair weather road from Mancheswar to Nuapatua, North Bank, Mahanadi river, opposite Cuttack, were completed.

The collection of metal for metalling the first 8½ miles of the Angul-Tikerpara Road was completed.

Spreading and consolidation remained to be done.

409. An out-house and a stable were constructed for the Inspection bungalow at Angul, and a new Inspection bungalow was built at Harbhanga. The Inspection bungalow at Basudebpully was reconstructed and improved. Angul.

410. The extension of the staging bungalow at Puri was three-fourths done, and the work was in progress. Puri.

411. A new dák bungalow at Ranchi was constructed; additions and alterations to the dák bungalow as Tulin, commenced last year, were finished. No further progress than the collection of materials was made towards the construction of a dák bungalow at Bankura. A well in the compound of the Inspection bungalow at Dhanbad was started, and materials to the value of Rs. 1,587 were collected for the construction of the bungalow. Ranchi.

Raising, embanking and metalling nine miles of the Ranchi-Chaibassa Road between Chakradharpur and Deogan were completed.

Thorough repairs to the portion of the Ranchi-Hazaribagh Road, lately taken over from the Ranchi Municipality, were taken in hand.

The permanent alignment of the 2nd and 3rd sections of the proposed feeder road to the Bengal Nagpur Railway from Palkote to Kolinga was marked out.

412. The work of the Durgaoti Suspension Bridge, which was in progress at the end of last year, has been completed. Shahabad.

413. The survey, which was started in the latter end of October 1904, was divided into five sections as follows:— Bengal-Tibet Road Survey.

	Miles.
Section I.—Chumbi to Dulung Chu, length	22½
Section II.—Dulung Chu to ridge west of Dhopi Dhanra, length ...	19
Section III.—Ridge west of Dhopi Dhanra, 9,200 feet to 6,900 feet, approximate length	17
Section IV.—From 6,900 feet elevation to Sambrick, 3,100 feet length	21
Section V.—From Sambrick to Thaljhora, length	10
Total ...	89½

The following shows the progress made up to 31st March 1905:—Trace laid out 85½ miles: path completed 54 miles: chaining and pegging 44 miles: levelling centre line 43½ miles: surveying 40 miles: cross-sections taken over 28½ miles: field work completed during May 1905.

Miscellaneous Public Improvements.

414. A Branch Shipping Office with out-houses was constructed at Kidderpore. Calcutta.

The Dharamtala tank at the north-east corner of the Calcutta Maidan was filled up, and the site laid out with roads and paths, for which an estimate amounting to Rs. 28,500 was sanctioned.

As complaints were made regarding the time and manner of watering the Calcutta Maidan roads, a grant-in-aid of Rs. 54,000 was made to the Calcutta

Corporation as the Government share of the cost of laying a large unfiltered water main across the Maidan.

Dalhousie Square was formally transferred to the Government of Bengal on the 19th April 1905, and since then improvements in the square have been taken in hand and are in progress.

Mofussil.

415. No serious damage was done to the Murshidabad slope, although there was an exceptionally high flood during the year. About 4,000 cubic feet of revetting was done. Materials for reconstructing the stone ghât were collected, and the work will be started when the river is at its lowest level.

Protective works were constructed during the year to prevent further erosion of the bank of the river Bhyrub in front of the Collector's residential building at Khulna.

More than one crore of bricks were burnt at Pusa for the buildings in connection with the Agricultural College at Pusa. The following residential buildings for which estimates were sanctioned were taken in hand:—

(1) Four quarters for European officers.
(2) Five quarters for teachers on pay of Rs. 150 to Rs. 250.
(3) Nine blocks of quarters for 36 clerks on pay of Rs. 25 to Rs. 125.
(4) Three blocks of quarters for 18 menials.

Good progress was made with these buildings.

The most important building is the Laboratory, which has been named after Mr. Phipps, the American gentleman who gave the handsome contribution of £20,000 towards the cost of its construction. The construction of the foundation and plinth was sanctioned in November and the work started on 18th December. The progress of the work was satisfactory.

The river bank in front of Phipps' Laboratory, which showed signs of being eroded by the action of the Bur Gandak river, was cut back to an even slope to relieve the top pressure. Further protective measures are contemplated for which surveys have been made.

In August 1904, a license under the Indian Electricity Act, 1903, was granted to the Municipality of Darjeeling for the general supply of electricity to the town and neighbourhood.

Establishment.

416. A new temporary Division designated the Bengal-Tibet Road Survey Division was formed with effect from the 1st October 1904 for the survey and preparation of a project for a road from Nagrakata, a station on the Bengal-Duars Railway, to the Chumbi Valley.

A temporary subdivision was started at Pusa from 1st August 1904 for the supervision of the buildings in connection with the Agricultural College at that place. It also included the buildings, roads and other works connected with the Phipps' Laboratory.

Railways and Tramways.

Lines under the Government of India.

417. The Bengal Government is not directly concerned with the administration of any railways nor has it any direct pecuniary interest in them.

The more important lines are subject to the control of the Railway Board and of the Government of India.

A few small railways of only local importance are subject to a certain measure of control by this Government.

Additions to mileage.

418. The following additions were made during the year to the standard gauge:—

	Miles.
Bengal-Nagpur Railway	4·47
Bengal Central Railway	2·68
Total ...	7·15

To the metre-gauge 30·47 miles were added by the opening of the Sakri-Jaynagar branch of the Tirhut State Railway, while 32·10 miles were added to the 2′ 6″ lines by the opening of the Mohurbhanj State Railway which is worked by the Bengal-Nagpur Railway.

Railways purchased.

419. The Sultanpur Branch on the Northern Section of the Eastern Bengal State Railway metre gauge, 59 miles, was purchased from the Brahmaputra-Sultanpur Branch Railway Company and incorporated with the Eastern Bengal State Railway System. The purchase of the Ranaghat-Krishnagar Light Railway by the Government of India was completed and the line taken over by the Eastern Bengal State Railway with effect from 1st July 1904.

Surveys.

420. The Government of India sanctioned a survey, through the agency of the Bengal-Nagpur Railway, of a line from Purulia to Ranchi, and the survey by the Bengal and North-Western Railway of a line from Pertabganj, a station on the Tirhut State Railway to Ghora Ghat *vid* Birpur.

A survey for an extension of the Murshidabad Branch, Eastern Bengal State Railway System, from Lalgola to the mouth of the Bhagirathi river near Gherria, 16 miles on the 5′ 6″ gauge was in progress.

The following surveys were completed:—

I. Lines pertaining to the Eastern Bengal State Railway System (1) from Sara to Serajganj, near the right bank of the Brahmaputra river and beyond Serajganj to the river bank, about 50 miles, on the 5′ 6″ gauge; (2) reconnaissance of a line from Forbesganj to the Nepal frontier to serve Nepalganj, about 7 miles, on the 3′ $3\frac{3}{8}$″ gauge; and (3) location of a line from Katihar *vid* Malda to Godagari, 105 miles, on the 3′ $3\frac{3}{8}$″ gauge.

II. An extension of the branch line recently sanctioned from Hooghly to Katwa, proceeding through Azimganj to Barharwa station on the loop line, a distance of 99 miles, on the 5′ 6″ gauge.

Lines sanctioned.

421. The Secretary of State sanctioned a metre gauge line from Katihar through Malda to Godagari with provision for crossing the Ganges river by a ferry as an integral part of the Eastern Bengal State Railway System, also a railway on the 5′ 6″ gauge from Bhagalpur to Bausi, a distance of 31 miles as an integral part of the East Indian Railway.

Arrangements have been concluded for the construction on the 3′ $3\frac{3}{8}$″ gauge of the following lines by the Bengal and North-Western Railway Company in the Saran district:—(1) Daronda-Maharajganj 4 miles; (2) Savan-Thawe 18 miles.

Other projects.

422. An application from the India Development Company for the construction of a railway siding from Silout, a station on the Bengal and North-Western Railway, to their Sugar Factory at Ottur, a distance of about 6 miles, was submitted to the Government of India, who decided that the proposed siding could be constructed on the terms for assisted sidings. The work is in hand through the agency of the Bengal and North-Western Railway.

A project for linking up the Murshidabad Branch of the Eastern Bengal State Railway with the Nalhati-Azimganj Branch of the East Indian Railway by means of a bridge over the Bhagirathi river has been considered. It does not appear that the bridge is required under the present conditions of trade.

Important matters dealt with.

423. The Local Government was consulted by the Government of India on the following questions:—

(1) The proposed alignment of the Murshidabad branch of the Eastern Bengal State Railway from Jiaganj to Lalgola.

(2) The necessity for a line of railway from Bishenpur to Hooghly with a branch from Bhandarhati to Howrah and a coal depôt at Luff Point.

(3) Draft rules for the supervision by Local Governments of the medical arrangements of railways within their jurisdiction.

(4) The terms under which the contract between the Secretary of State and the Bengal and North-Western Railway Company for the working of the Tirhut State Railway should be extended.

(5) Proposed rules to govern the relations between Railway Administrations and the Postal Department in regard to train timings in order to ensure the proper and expeditious transaction of business.

The Government of India communicated to this Government its willingness to advance loans to District Boards which levy a special cess for the

construction of railways subject to certain conditions and the question of amending the Bengal Local Self-Government Act III of 1885 so as to empower District Boards to impose a rate to cover interest guaranteed on capital expended on a railway or tramway is under the consideration of this Government.

A proposal for the construction by private enterprise subject to certain concessions from Government of a wire ropeway along the Tista Valley from Sivok to Tista was declined by this Government.

A project for constructing a metre gauge railway to connect Pabna with Sara was considered and found to be not very favourable from either an engineering or a traffic point of view.

The Government of India intimated the terms under which they would grant an application of Messrs. Kilburn & Co. for concessions to construct railways (1) from Mymensingh to Netrokona with a branch from Shambhuganj to Gouripur and possibly an extension from Netrokona to Bara Ari, and (2) from Singhjani to Sherpur with an ærial ropeway across the Brahmaputra river and possibly an extension from Sherpur to Nalitabari.

This Government received a proposal from the District Board of Nadia to construct a branch line of railway from Krishnagar to Meherpur, with a prolongation beyond Meherpur to the north to the trade centres of Karimpur and Jellinghee and it was arranged that a detailed survey should be undertaken and a project prepared by the Eastern Bengal State Railway Administration at the cost of the District Board.

Railways controlled by the Government of Bengal.

424. The mileage of the railways subject to control from this Government was as below :—

	Miles.
(1) The Darjeeling-Himalayan Railway	51
(2) The Deoghur Railway	4·79
(3) The Tarkeshwar-Mugra Railway	31·12
(4) The Howrah-Amta Railway	37·19
(5) The Howrah-Sheakhala Railway	19 75
(6) The Bukhtiarpore-Bihar Railway	18·50
(7) The Baraset-Basirhat Railway	26·06
Total ...	188·41

The mileage added during the year was:—

	Miles.
The Jagatballabpore-Autpur Section of the Howrah-Amta Light Railway	8·50
The Baraset-Basirhat Light Railway	26·06
Total ...	34·56

The former was opened on the 1st June 1904 and the latter on the 1st February 1905.

Darjeeling-Himalayan Railway.—The total gross earnings amounted to Rs. 10,06,484, and the working expenses to Rs. 5,60,861. The increase in gross earnings over the previous year was Rs. 44,822, and in working expenses of Rs. 16,047. The percentage of net earnings on Capital outlay was 11·87, against 11·54 in the previous year.

Deoghur Railway.—There was an increase both in passenger and goods traffic during the year. The percentage of net earnings on Capital outlay was 4·88, showing an increase over the preceding year.

Tarkeswar Mogra Light Railway.—There was an increase in passenger traffic and a very small decrease in goods traffic. The total receipts showed an increase. The net earnings were 2·35 per cent. on the Capital cost, against 2·50 during the previous year.

Howrah-Amta Light Railway.—There was an increase in the net earnings of the line, due mainly to the opening of the Autpur Extension. The percentage of net earnings to Capital expenditure was 9.

Howrah-Sheakhala Light Railway.—There was a slight decrease in the net earnings owing to the large expenditure on repairs to rolling stock. The percentage of net earnings to Capital outlay was 6.

Bukhtiarpur-Bihar Light Railway.—The year's working showed a net return of 4·61 per cent. on the Capital outlay.

Baraset-Basirhat Light Railway.—This line was started towards the end of the year. It promises to yield a satisfactory return on the outlay.

Canals.

[Administration Report of Irrigation Works for the year 1904-1905.]

425. The transactions of the Irrigation Department for the year 1904-1905 are exhibited in the following statements so far as they relate to works of Irrigation and Navigation. Agricultural works for protection from flood or for the drainage of land are reviewed separately and are not noticed in this report:—

Capital Account.

Heads.	Amount of construction estimate.	Expenditure during 1904-1905.	Expenditure to end of 1904-1905.	Balance for expenditure from 1st April 1905.
Protective Irrigation Works.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Direct charges	56,13,464	4,30,644	15,67,865	40,45,599
Indirect do.	1,31,055	12,380	39,398	91,657
Total ...	57,44,519	4,43,024	16,07,263	41,37,256
Major Irrigation Works.				
Direct charges	6,27,00,631	34,206	6,26,55,191	45,440
Indirect do.	17,60,768	725	17,58,523	2,245
Total ...	6,44,61,399	34,931	6,44,13,714	47,685
Minor Works and Navigation.				
Direct charges	1,35,63,225	2,81,347	1,35,95,767	(—)32,542
Indirect do.	3,50,254	7,301	3,52,505	(—) 2,251
Total ...	1,39,13,479	2,88,648	1,39,48,272	(—)34,793

Revenue Account.

Heads.	Receipts.	Working Expenses.		Total working expenses.	Net revenue.
		Direct charges.	Indirect charges.		
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Major Irrigation Works ...	20,40,635	9,82,473	79,005	10,61,478	9,79,157
Minor Works and Navigation.					
Works for which Capital and Revenue accounts are kept.	5,59,149	3,67,015	10,803	3,77,818	1,81,331
Works for which only Revenue accounts are kept.	93,836	1,33,136	5,336	1,38,472	(—)44,636
Works for which neither Capital nor Revenue accounts are kept.	24,728	(*a*)46,248	...	46,248	(—)21,520

(*a*) Exclusive of Rs. 65,132 and Rs. 10,398 spent during the year on improvement of navigable channels, Ganges river, and on experimental irrigation of sugarcane by pumping.

ORISSA CIRCLE.

Major Irrigation Works.

Orissa Canals.

Capital Account

426. The expenditure (direct charges) charged to the capital account of the Orissa Canals during the year was Rs. 27,737. The total capital outlay for direct charges to the end of the year stands at Rs. 2,59,99,142.

During the year the following works were in progress:—

Very little progress was made with the Dudhai Canal during the year. Sections IV, VI and VII, which were reported last year as in progress, were still not completed. The year's operations were confined to making good the damage done by floods and to finishing up the sections reported last year as completed, The canal has, however, been working and irrigated a large area of *dalwa* crop. On the Machgong Canal a sub-distributary from the 43rd chain of No. 10K Distributary was completed, and a minor from 19 miles 446 feet of the main canal above the Chattra weir was commenced. A minor distributary from No. 12 Distributary, Taldanda Canal, at Barunpada was in progress. A masonry bridge over the Thailo-Majikura drainage cut was completed. The Galepur, Garadpur and Navarangpur minor distributaries from the High Level Canal, Range III, were in progress. Branch E of No. 1 Distributary, Jajpur Canal, was commenced. The new inspection bungalow at Jagatpur was completed.

One hundred and twenty-seven permanent outlets were constructed during the year.

Lengths of Canals, &c.

427. The lengths of canals and distributaries which were in operation during the year were—Orissa Canals—canals for irrigation and navigation, 204¾ miles; canals for irrigation only, 121¼ miles, 15¼ miles being added during the year by the Dudhai Canal; distributaries and minor channels, 1,167¼ miles; Hijili Tidal Canal, 29 miles; Orissa Coast Canal, 129¾ miles.

Rainfall.

428. The rainfall was evenly distributed and was sufficient for agricultural purposes. The average rainfall at the 13 recording stations outside the Balasore Division was 53·37 inches, against 59·99 inches in the previous year.

Irrigation.

429. The area irrigated was 222,070 acres, against 210,161 acres in the preceding year. There has been an increase of 8,324 acres in the *kharif* area, due mainly to larger areas having been leased on the Taldanda and Machgong Canals, and on High Level Canal, Range I. The area on the Pattamundi Canal decreased to the extent of 1,854 acres. On the remaining canals the fluctuations were small.

The cash realisations on account of water-rates amounted to Rs. 2,86,170, against the demand of Rs. 2,89,300. The balance at the end of the year was Rs. 3,124, against Rs. 4,025 outstanding at the end of the year 1903-1904.

Navigation receipts.

430. The navigation receipts of the Orissa Canals were Rs. 68,345, against Rs. 70,336 in 1903-1904. The tonnage of boats was 325,256, against 259,512 in the preceding year. The reduction in the earnings as compared with the increase in the tonnage is due to the fact that reduced rates of tollage were in operation throughout the year under review, while in the previous year they only had effect from 1st July 1903.

Financial results.

431. The revenue and working expenses (direct and indirect) of the Orissa Canals during the year were Rs. 3,87,126 and Rs. 3,40,178 respectively; the result being a net revenue of Rs. 46,948, against Rs. 45,310 in the preceding year.

Hijili Tidal Canal.

432. There was no addition to the capital outlay during the year which now stands at Rs. 25,51,641 (direct charges). The navigation receipts were Rs. 44,063, against Rs. 40,913 in the preceding year. The total receipts and working expenses (direct and indirect) were Rs. 45,242 and Rs. 49,797 respectively, against Rs. 42,334, and Rs. 24,932 respectively in the preceding year. The result was a deficit of Rs. 4,555, against a net revenue of Rs. 17,402 in the year 1903-1904. The maintenance charges were unusually heavy, due to special repairs to locks and to clearance of silt from the Gewankhally supply channel.

Minor Works and Navigation.

Orissa Coast Canal.

433. There was a slight reduction in the capital account during the year due to an adjustment for land. The total capital outlay (direct charges)

amounts to Rs. 43,72,462. The canal remained open for traffic throughout the year. The navigation receipts were Rs. 28,682, against Rs. 30,060 in the preceding year. The reduction in the rates of tollage has led to increased traffic, the tonnage of boats using the canal having increased from 83,129 in 1902-1903 to 133,039 in the year under review. The gross receipts and working expenses (direct and indirect) were Rs. 3,239 and Rs. 51,402 respectively, resulting in a deficit of Rs. 19,163, against a deficit of Rs. 31,753 in the preceding year.

The outlay on maintenance was lower than it has been for several years. The Superintending Engineer, however, reports that little has been done to Range V for some time, and that it is badly silted, while the lock-gates are in need of repair. It is therefore probable that a proportionately heavy expenditure will be required in the near future.

434. The floods in the various rivers within the Circle were generally moderate and do not call for special remark. The Byturni river was, however, in high flood within 0·60 feet of the highest recorded. No damage was caused. **Floods.**

SOUTH-WESTERN CIRCLE.

Major Irrigation Works.

Midnapore Canal.

435. The capital outlay during the year amounted to Rs. 4,028 which was spent on permanent outlets. The total capital expenditure (direct charges) now stands at Rs. 82,97,576. **Capital account.**

436. The lengths of main canal, distributaries and village channels remained the same as last year, viz., main canal and branches 72 miles, distributaries 267·22 miles, village channels 29·95 miles and drainage channels 54·42 miles. **Lengths of canals, &c.**

437. The highest flood in the river Cossye during the year was on the 8th July 1904, when the gauge at Midnapore read 88·10, the highest on record being 93·30 on 19th June 1898. **Floods.**

438. The total rainfall registered at Midnapore and Panchkura was as follows:— **Rainfall.**

	1904-1905.	Average of ten previous years.
	Inches.	Inches.
Midnapore	64·84	55·97
Panchkura	60·88	56·41

Owing to the heavy rainfall of the season there was practically no demand for irrigation till October, when the river began to fall and considerable care had to be exercised in the distribution of the water available. The *tatil* system (which had been introduced for the first time during the whole irrigation season) was useful in simplifying the distribution at this time of the year, but otherwise the season was not one in which the system was really tested.

439. The area irrigated by the canal was 85,892 acres as compared with 93,367 acres in the previous year. The falling off in the area irrigated was due mainly to the new limit fixed by Government for long leases. **Irrigation.**

The cash realisations on account of water-rates amounted to Rs. 1,24,445, against the demand of Rs. 1,29,858. The amount remitted was Rs. 5,409 and the balance at the end of the year was Rs. 4.

440. The navigation receipts amounted to Rs. 61,138, against Rs. 47,153 in the preceding year. The increase in grain traffic from November 1904 to February 1905 was due to a good crop of paddy and to the closure of the Hijili Tidal Canal. **Navigation receipts.**

The canal was open to traffic throughout the year.

441. The gross revenue and working expenses (direct and indirect) of the canal for the year 1904-1905 were Rs. 2,05,805 and Rs. 1,36,662 respectively, resulting in a net revenue of Rs. 69,143 against Rs. 69,908 in 1903-1904. **Financial results.**

MINOR WORKS AND NAVIGATION.

Calcutta and Eastern Canals.

442. The outlay of the year chargeable to the capital account (direct charges) was Rs. 2,81,074. This was mainly expended on the construction of the channel through the Madaripore bhil, and partly on the reconstruction of the Zeerut Bridge over Tolly's Nala and on the construction of a new launch for inspection and on mud barges and pumping plant.

The system includes 1,127 miles of channels of which 47 miles are artificial. The receipts from navigation tolls aggregated Rs. 5,12,571 as compared with Rs. 3,81,934 in the preceding year. There was a general improvement in traffic, and the revenue from the bhil channel is increasing. For the year under review this contributed Rs. 45,397. The expenditure on maintenance including indirect charges amounted to Rs. 3,24,482 as compared with Rs. 2,68,288 in the previous year. The re-excavation of the Alaipore khal added materially to the normal outlay. Dredging cost Rs. 38,840. The gross revenue for the year was Rs. 5,26,225, giving a net return of Rs. 2,01,743 as against Rs. 1,29,882 in the preceding year.

Nadia Rivers.

443. The approximate lengths of the natural channels comprised in the system known as the Nadia rivers remained the same as last year, viz.—

	Miles.
Bhagirathi river	157½ to Nadia.
Bhairab-Jalangi river	146
Mathabhanga river	137
Hooghly river	32
Total ...	472½

No capital account is kept. The receipts and working expenses (direct and indirect) were Rs. 88,405 and Rs. 1,29,236 respectively. The net result was a deficit of Rs. 40,831, against a deficit of Rs. 15,986.

A sum of Rs. 65,132 was spent during the year on the improvement of the navigable channels of the Ganges river.

Gaiaghatta and Baxi khal.

444. The receipts and working expenses (direct and indirect) for the year 1904-1905 were Rs. 5,431 and Rs. 9,236 respectively, against Rs. 2,300 and Rs. 538 in the previous year, the large expenditure of the year under review being due to the clearance of silt. The right of collecting navigation tolls on the khal, which is 7½ miles long, has been farmed out for five years from 1901-1902 at Rs. 4,500 per year.

Eden Canal.

445. The total length of the Eden Canal is 45⅙ miles. The receipts and working expenses were Rs. 24,452 and Rs. 34,594 respectively, against Rs. 30,832 and Rs. 43,804 in the year 1903-1904. The area irrigated during the year was 26,372 acres, against 28,471 acres in the preceding year. The decrease in area as compared with the previous year is due to some of the leases which lapsed not renewing on account of the abundant rainfall during the early part of the *kharif* season.

The drainage works carried out under the provisions of the Drainage Act, VI (B. C.) of 1880, or otherwise, and the work done on embankments are discussed in the Embankment and Drainage Report.

SONE CIRCLE.

MAJOR IRRIGATION WORKS.

Sone Canals.

Capital account.

446. The capital account of the Sone Canals under head 49 is closed. Under 43—Minor Works and Navigation there was an expenditure during the year of Rs. 2,441 on a few small works. The total capital outlay (direct charges) up to the end of 1904-1905 was Rs. 2,58,06,832.

447. The lengths of canals and distributaries in operation at the close of the year remain the same as previously noted, viz., 1,584½ miles as detailed below :— Lengths of Canals, etc.

	Canal system.			Total.
	Eastern Sone.	Arrah.	Buxar.	
	Miles.	Miles.	Miles.	Miles.
Canals for irrigation and navigation ...	86¼	74½	57¾	218½
Do. for irrigation only	...	71¼	77¼	148½
Distributaries	338	470¼	409	1,217¼

448. The average rainfall registered at 12 stations was 50·42 inches as compared with an average of 33·15 inches in the preceding year. There was good rain at the end of May and in June, July and August for sowing and transplanting the rice, which promised to be a bumper crop; but owing to light rain in September and no rain in October till the 17th, on which date heavy and general rain fell, the crop suffered, and in many places outside the canal-irrigated tracts was either entirely lost or gave a poor yield. This October rain, however, benefited the *rabi*, for which there was but a small demand for canal irrigation. Rainfall.

449. The areas irrigated during the year under review and the previous year are shown below :— Irrigation.

Year.	*Kharif.*	*Rabi.*	Hot weather.	Total.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
1903-1904 ...	369,191	110,451	26,161	505,803
1904-1905 ...	368,742	93,054	30,469	492,265

The area irrigated under long lease at the end of the year under report was 371,964 acres, against 360,235 acres at the end of the last year. The cash realisations on account of water-rates amounted to Rs. 13,20,482, against the demand of Rs. 13,21,869. The remissions of the year amounted to Rs. 1,387, no unadjusted balance being left at the end of the year.

450. The navigation receipts during the year were Rs. 24,072, against Rs. 22,708 in the previous year. Navigation receipts.

451. The gross receipts and working expenses (direct and indirect) were Rs. 14,02,462 and Rs. 5,34,841 respectively, against Rs. 13,24,252 and Rs. 5,37.940 in the preceding year. The expenditure on maintenance includes a sum of Rs. 10,370 spent on works of improvement. These include permanent outlets and culverts for village channels under roads. Financial results.

452. The Main Western Canal below 12th mile, including distributaries taking off therefrom, were closed during the hot weather. Owing to the shortness of supply in the river, the Main Eastern and Patna Canals had also to be closed from 9th to 27th May. Closure of Canals.

GANDAK CIRCLE.

453. The head-quarters of the Champaran Division were removed temporarily from Motihari to Ramnagar, with effect from 20th November 1904. Administrative changes.

Two works classed under head 35 (Protective Irrigation Works) are in progress, viz., the Tribeni and Dhaka Canals.

Tribeni Canal.

Tribeni and Dhaka Canals.

454. Owing to the unsatisfactory progress made by some of the piece-workers engaged on the Tribeni Canal Project, their agreements were cancelled. Tenders were called for by advertisement, and the tenders of Messrs. Burn & Co. and Bengal Stone Company (G. Henderson & Co.) were accepted. Major portions of the masonry works and earthwork have been entrusted to them, and they have agreed to complete the works within 30th June 1908 under a penalty of Rs. 500 for every week during which the work shall remain incomplete or not delivered over.

Messrs. C. D. Stewart & Co., who originally undertook the construction of head sluice and superpassage as also the earthwork of the canal, gave up the masonry works and retained the work of excavating first six miles. They agreed to complete the excavations in two seasons, *i.e.*, by 1st July 1906. A deduction of 10 per cent. in the case of earthwork and 5 per cent. on stone boulders will be made from all bills for incomplete work.

The expenditure (direct charges) on the Tribeni Canal during the year was Rs. 3,61,589; on the Dhaka Canal the expenditure was Rs. 69,055.

The progress on the Tribeni Canal has been very slow, due to the difficulty of procuring skilled labour. There is no local labour of any kind and the district is unhealthy and remote. None of the larger masonry works have been completed, but materials have been collected or manufactured and foundations have been got in for a few works. There has been no difficulty in regard to the foundations, and the want of labour is the sole obstacle. During the rains work has to stop altogether. Better progress is hoped for in the coming season.

Dhaka Canal.

The works of the Dhaka Canal and its branches were practically completed in the previous year, except one syphon at the 3rd mile, which was completed during the year under report.

The weir on the Lal Bakya river has been a much more troublesome work than was anticipated. The stream is subject to sudden floods, and there has already been a marked retrogression in the bed below. It is hoped that it may be completed by the rains of 1906.

In the year under review irrigation was allowed as far as water could be supplied with the incomplete weir and without charging any water-rate, and in May 1904 the following crops were irrigated:—

	Acres.
Indigo	200
Sugarcane	384
Other crops	826
Total ...	1,410

Minor Works and Navigation.

Works for which Capital and Revenue Accounts are kept.

Saran Canals.

455. A sum of Rs. 6,993 was spent to the end of the year on surveys in an endeavour to find some scheme for improving the efficiency of these canals. In their present state they are of little use, and in the absence of permanent head works it is impossible to ensure any steady supply of water.

Works for which neither Capital nor Revenue Accounts are kept.

Madhuban Canal.

456. The only work of this class in this Circle is Madhuban (Teur) Canal, which is 6 miles 10·6 chains in length. Hitherto water has been given from this canal without charge, but in future a small water-rate will be taken.

The total area irrigated during the year under report was 4,095 acres, against 1,044 acres in the preceding year. The increase is due to short rainfall during the rice season.

The canal was maintained in fair order at a cost of Rs. 11,654, against Rs. 12,452 of the preceding year.

457. The Lakhowra Distributary, which will give a better command of the country, has been completed at a cost of Rs. 18,323, of which Rs. 4,212 was spent in the year under review. Lakhowra Distributary.

Embankments and Drainage.

458. The expenditure incurred on works and repairs (exclusive of book charges for establishment and tools and plant) during the year on embankments and drainage works in Bengal was Rs. 6,38,925. The total length of embankments maintained during the year was 2,152 miles, protecting an area of 8,695,137 acres. There has been an addition of 5 miles 2,227 feet in the length of the class A embankments in Orissa, mainly due to the restoration to the schedule of certain embankments which had been temporarily removed from it. There has been no alteration in the other classes. General.

459. In the Orissa Circle an investigation was made in the Puri district with respect to the utility of the existing sluices in the embankments and to ascertain where additional sluices might with advantage be provided. In the South-Western Circle surveys for retired lines at Magra and Kaipur and a survey of the right bank of the Hooghly from Uluberia to Alipore were completed during the year. Surveys of the creek and some of the main channels in connection with the Magra Hât drainage scheme were completed. Surveys were also made of the village sites in the country which is now exposed to flood in consequence of the alterations in the line of embankments at Laltakuri in the Murshidabad district. In the Gandak Circle surveys in connection with three retired lines proposed for the Saran embankment were carried out. Surveys and investigations.

460. The outlay of the year (without charges for establishment) under this head amounts to Rs. 38,338. The more important works are briefly noted. Original works.

In the Orissa Circle a paved escape on the left bank of the Bhargovi river was completed and two similar escapes on the Kushbhadra river were commenced. A short length of new embankment on the left bank of the Byturni at Anandpur was completed.

In the South-Western Circle Rs. 3,913 wer eexpended on the remodelling of the Mohanpur-Kharagpur road to serve as a flood bank of the Cossye river near Midnapore. This work was completed during the year at a total cost of Rs. 48,405. Half the cost has been debited to the Bengal-Nagpur Railway. The Inspection bungalow at Edilpur on the Damodar was enlarged at a cost of Rs. 1,631.

A sum of Rs. 18,076 was also expended in the Nadia Rivers Division principally on works in connection with the Kalukhali sluice and the Bhagwangola retired line, the outlay on the latter being Rs. 4,670.

In the Gandak Circle the construction of the drainage sluice in the 6th mile of the Bazitpur embankment was nearly completed. A new sluice was built in the 37th mile of the Tirhut embankment at a cost of Rs. 1,104 paid by the parties benefited by the work.

461. The expenditure on repairs (without book charges for establishment and tools and plant) aggregated Rs. 3,96,147. Ordinary repairs.

The expenditure during the year on repairs to the Orissa embankments was the smallest of the quinquennial period ending March 1905. In the South-Western Circle the expenditure on ordinary repairs was Rs. 1,02,629 against Rs. 1,27,382 in the previous year. In the Burdwan and 24-Parganas districts there was a reduction in expenditure of Rs. 31,565, while in the Hooghly, Midnapore and Murshidabad districts the charge for maintenance was Rs. 7,213 in excess of the preceding year.

462. In the Orissa Circle a large breach occurred in the 9th mile of the Kushbhadra river right bank, while three breaches occurred in the Bhargovi embankment. No damage was, however, done to the crops. On the contrary the inundation is reported to have been on the whole beneficial, as the local rainfall was short at the time. There were also four breaches in the Jamkunda embankment and one in the Darboree embankment. These were speedily closed and the crops were not damaged. The expenditure during the year for filling breaches was Rs. 3,037, against Rs. 2,227 in the previous year. Breaches.

Retired lines.

463. In the Orissa Circle the amount expended in constructing retired lines of embankments, including in this head slope-cutting, which is an alternative measure, was Rs. 5,064, against Rs. 11,699 in the previous year. In the South-Western Circle the cost of constructing retired lines in the Burdwan, Hooghly, Midnapore, Murshidabad and the 24-Parganas districts was Rs. 63,165, against Rs. 66,120 in the previous year. In the Gandak Circle three retired lines were constructed in the Saran embankment and one in the 30th mile of the Tirhut embankment. No retired lines were constructed in the Northern and Bhagalpur Circles.

River Protective works.

464. In the Orissa Circle the total outlay incurred on repairs to the revetment and river protective works was Rs. 675, against Rs. 1,305 in the preceding year. In the Gandak Circle the existing spurs at 27th and 44th miles of the Saran embankment were repaired and nine new spurs were constructed at the former and three at the latter place. The old spurs in the Tirhut embankment were also repaired. Protective works were carried out opposite the 58th mile on the Champaran embankment to prevent erosion.

Financial.

465. The actual outlay during the year on the Orissa embankments (class A) maintained as agricultural works exclusive of charges for establishment and tools and plant was Rs. 26,689, against Rs. 35,437 in the previous year, the average rate per mile being Rs. 52. The expenditure on class B Government embankments was Rs. 2,36,572, against Rs. 2,37,231 in the previous year, the average rate being Rs. 217, against Rs. 218 in 1903-1904.

The contract for the maintenance of the Midnapore takavi embankments in charge of the Executive Engineer, Cossye Division, has been renewed for 15 years from 1st April 1904 at Rs. 49,761 per annum, while the previous rate had been fixed for three years only from 1st April 1901 at Rs. 55,297 per annum. The contract for the maintenance of the Joki takavi embankment in the Balasore Division has also been renewed for 15 years from 1st April 1901 at an annual rate of Rs. 994. The Joki embankment lying in the Midnapore district the contract amount for its maintenance is included in that for the Midnapore takavi embankments. The contract for the maintenance of the Gandak takavi embankment in the district of Saran has been renewed for 20 years from 1st April 1900 at an annual rate of Rs. 23,900. The rate for the maintenance of the Gandak takavi embankments in the districts of Champaran and Muzaffarpur has been fixed for 20 years, from 1st April 1903, at Rs. 20,000 and Rs. 10,415 respectively per annum.

Works undertaken under the provisions of the Drainage Act VI (B.C.) of 1880.

466. The Dankuni, Howrah, Rajapore and Burajalla drainage works in the Hooghly district in charge of the Executive Engineer, Northern Drainage and Embankment Division, were maintained in good order during the year. The cost of their maintenance was Rs. 12,018 as compared with Rs. 17,388 in the previous year.

Works undertaken under the provisions of the Sanitary Drainage Act VIII (B.C.) of 1895.

467. The only work taken up under the Sanitary Drainage Act is the Magra Hât drainage scheme in the 24-Parganas district. It is designed to drain the swamps around Magra Hât and in the central portion of the tracts enclosed by the 24-Parganas embankments. The swamps are mainly those along the Kaorapokhar khal near Hotar, those connected with the Surjipur sluice, those at Joynagar and along the Srichandra and Sangrampur khals, as well as north of the railway near Sangrampur and at Dhosa and Habka. The rough estimates amounting to Rs. 17,39,000 have been approved by the Municipal Department of this Government. The Government contribution for the scheme is Rs. 5,00,000, and the balance will be advanced by Government as a loan to the District Board and recovered from the persons whose lands will be benefited. The allotment for the year 1904-1905 was Rs. 1,25,000, and a sum of Rs. 93,133 was expended.

Drainage works carried out at the cost of Government but not under the provisions of the Drainage Act.

468. There was no expenditure on original works during the year. The outlay incurred on maintenance and repairs of the works is given below:—

On the Bullee Bhil, South-Western Circle, Rs. 6,044 were expended on repairing and maintaining the escape weirs, sluices, regulators, drainage channels, dividing embankments and plantation and in clearing silt from Koijuri and Boyarghatta channels. In the Balasore Division the Balighai main and branch drains were kept open to traffic throughout the year. The cost of maintenance amounted to Rs. 1,219, including cost of repairs to

inspection bungalows. The outer bund of the Surpai sluice channel was cut for drainage purposes at a cost of Rs. 793; and for silt clearance of the khas tahsil khals in charge of this Department Rs. 11,934 were expended during the year. Ten khas tahsil khals hitherto maintained by the Contai Khas Tahsil Department for drainage purposes were cleared from silt by this Department with funds provided from the khas mahal management grant. The amount expended during the year was Rs. 5,838. These ten khals have been placed in charge of this Department for inspection purposes only.

469. The amounts expended are shown below:—

Drainage works carried out under the provisions of the Embankment Act II (B.C.) of 1882.

Original works.—The embankment on the left bank of the Peali river with two sluices referred to in the previous year was nearly completed during the year. The expenditure of the year was Rs. 58,351. A sluice at Dhutkhali in the 108th mile of the 24-Parganas embankment was under construction during the year. The expenditure incurred on the work was Rs. 5,824, against the sanctioned estimate for Rs. 19,098. On the silt clearance of the Kunjapore and other subsidiary khals in the Midnapore district, Rs. 15,560 were expended to end of the year, against the estimated amount of Rs. 20,172. The expenditure of the year was Rs. 11,906. The construction of a sluice in the 23rd mile of the Hijili Tidal Canal, Range II, in progress from last year, was completed at a total cost of Rs. 549. The construction of two sluices was undertaken on the parties depositing the estimated cost Rs. 1,687 and Rs. 1,891, viz., a sluice in the Kalinagar Hassia embankment (schedule D, No. 45) and a sluice in the 12th mile of the Jalpai embankment (schedule D, No. 53).

Maintenance and Repairs.

470. The Charial khal drainage sluices and 15 other sluices in the schedule D embankments in the 24-Parganas district were efficiently maintained during the year at an aggregate cost of Rs. 3,878. The Kumrool sluice in the 53rd mile of the Damodar left embankment (schedule D, No. 82) in the Hooghly district was repaired and maintained during the year at a cost of Rs. 341.

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CHAPTER V.—REVENUE AND FINANCE.

Gross Revenue.

471. The following statement shows the gross revenue (*i.e.*, the total of Imperial, Provincial and Local Revenues) for 1904-1905, as compared with that for 1903-1904:—

(The figures are in thousands.)

Receipts.	1903-1904.				1904-1905.			
	Imperial.	Provincial.	Local.	Total.	Imperial.	Provincial.	Local.	Total.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Principal Heads of Revenue—								
I.—Land Revenue	1,99,60	2,10,43	...	4 10,03	2,55,01	1,56,45	...	4,11,46
II.—Opium	7,09,81	.....	...	7,09,81	7,70,14	.....	...	7,70,14
III.—Salt	2,18,01	.....	...	2,18,01	2 23,62	.....	...	2,23,62
IV.—Stamps	49,59	1,48,77	...	1,98,36	1,04,30	1,04,30	...	2,08,60
V.—Excise	81,48	81,48	...	1,62,96	94,44	73,46	...	1,67,90
VI.—Provincial Rates... ...	.....	50,40	52,59	1,02,99	.....	52,04	54,05	1,07,09
VII.—Customs	1,68,84	258	...	1,71,42	1,97,71	.....	...	1,97,71
VIII.—Assessed Taxes	24,73	24,73	...	49,46	37,75	12,58	...	50,33
IX.—Forests	5,33	5,33	...	10,66	8,76	2.92	...	11,68
X.—Registration	8,33	8,33	...	16,66	.....	16,90	...	16,90
Total ...	14,63,72	5,32,05	52,59	20,50,36	16,91,73	4,18,65	54,05	21,64,43
XII.—Interest	14,29	3,26	45	18,00	13,91	2,85	44	17,20
XIII.—Post Office	.....	.....	10	10	.....	.....	12	12
Receipts by Civil Department—								
XVI.—Law and Justice—								
Courts of law	.....	6,08	...	6,08	.....	7,98	...	7,98
Jails	.....	14,15	...	14,15	.....	13,87	...	13,87
XVII.—Police	.....	1,84	10,66	12,50	.....	1,86	10,46	12,32
XVIII.—Marine	.....	13,49	...	13,49	.....	15,20	...	15,20
XIX.—Education	.....	7,09	81	7,90	.....	7,28	76	8,04
XX.—Medical	.....	2,30	66	2,96	.....	2,53	56	3,09
XXI.—Scientific and other Minor Departments ...	.....	2,46	33	2,79	.....	2,75	26	3,01
Total ...	.....	49,41	12,46	61,87	.....	51,47	12,04	63,51
Miscellaneous—								
XXII.—Receipts in aid of Superannuation	1,88	87	...	2,75	1,89	67	...	2,56
XXIII.—Stationery and Printing	1,29	1,45	1	2,75	61	1,46	2	2,09
XXV.—Miscellaneous	55	11,34	1,96	13,85	1,02	7,91	2,17	11,10
Total ...	3,72	13,66	1,97	19,35	3,52	10,04	2,19	15,75
State Railway gross receipts	3,26,57	.....	...	3,26,57	.....	.....	...	.....
Irrigation—								
XXIX.—Major Works (direct receipts)	.....	20,21	...	20,21	.....	20,46	...	20,46
XXX.—Minor Works and Navigation—								
By Public Works Department	.....	5,75	...	5,75	.....	7,01	...	7,01
By Civil Department...	.....	1,28	20	1,48	.....	1,42	20	1,62
Total ...	.....	27,24	20	27,44	.....	28,90	20	29,10
Buildings and Roads—								
XXXI.—Military Works	4	.....	...	4	2	.....	...	2
XXXII.—Civil Works—								
By Public Works Department	.....	5,42	...	5,42	22	3,89	...	4,11
By Civil Department	.....	2,50	6,23	8,73	.....	2,49	6,59	9,08
Total ...	4	7,92	6,23	14,19	24	6,38	6,59	13,21
Contributions ...	.....	66	19,87	20,53	.....	69	14,52	15,21
Grand Total ...	18,10,34	6,34,20	93,87	25,38,41	17,09,40	5,18,06	90,15	23,18,23

The chief variations are explained in the sections on Imperial and Provincial Finance.

Imperial Revenue and Finance.

472. The following statement shows Imperial Receipts in 1904-1905, as compared with those of 1903-1904:—

Major heads.	1903-1904.	1904-1905.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
I.—Land Revenue	1,99,60,163	2,55,00,863	55,40,700	.....
II.—Opium	7,09,80,798	7,70,13,716	60,32,918	.....
III.—Salt	2,18,01,075	2,23,61,605	5,60,530	.....
IV.—Stamps	49,58,878	1,04,30,354	54,71,476	.....
V.—Excise	81,47,972	94,44,535	12,96,563	.....
VII.—Customs	1,68,83,636	1,97,71,503	28,87,867	.....
VIII.—Assessed Taxes	24,72,908	37,74,942	13,02,034	.....
IX.—Forest	5,32,761	8,75,604	3,42,843	.....
X.—Registration	8,33,226	.....	.....	8,33,226
XII.—Interest	14,29,041	13,90,860	.....	38,181
XXII.—Receipts in aid of Superannuation	1,87,845	1,89,236	1,391	.....
XXIII.—Stationery and Printing ...	1,29,690	61,367	... ..	68,323
XXV.—Miscellaneous	54,679	1,91,880	47,201	.....
Total ...	14,83,72,672	17,09,16,465	2,34,83,523	9,39,730

The several increases and decreases shown in the above table are accounted for mainly by the causes given below:—*Land Revenue*—The actuals of 1903-1904 included special grants of Rs. 1,05,00,000 to Provincial by deduction of the Imperial share, while those of 1904-1905 contain a debit of about Rs. 49,00,000 only, which represents the fixed annual assignment made in the new Financial Settlement in order to establish equilibrium between Revenue and Expenditure made over for Provincial management; *Opium*—Sale at a larger average price; *Salt*—Larger clearances, owing to increased consumption; *Stamps*—The Imperial share under the new settlement is one-half instead of one-fourth as before, and there was an increase in the number of civil suits and probate duties in Calcutta; *Excise*—The Imperial share under this head has also been raised from one-half to nine-sixteenths, while favourable settlements and suppression of illicit practices contributed to the gross increase; *Customs*—Expansion of the import trade and larger exportation of rice; *Assessed Taxes* and *Forests*—The Imperial share under these heads is now three-fourths instead of one-half. Careful assessment and expansion of trade also contributed to the increase under the former head; *Miscellaneous*—Larger receipts on account of percentage chargeable on European stores and a special adjustment of Rs. 32,000 under Recoveries of Famine expenditure; *Registration*—The receipts and charges have been made wholly Provincial in the new settlement, while formerly they were divided equally between Imperial and Provincial; *Interest*—Reduction in the outstanding balances of loans; *Stationery and Printing*—Transfer of the receipts of the Stationery Office at the Presidency to the India books, with effect from the 1st July 1904.

473. The following statement shows Imperial expenditure in 1904-1905 as compared with 1903-1904:—

Major heads.	1903-1904.	1904-1905.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1.—Refunds and Drawbacks	7,79,101	7,11,981	.....	67,120
2.—Assignments and Compensations ...	1,14,162	1,06,352	.....	7,810
3.—Land Revenue	8,33,024	9,52,114	1,19,090	.....
4.—Opium	3,32,95,347	2,94,31,976	.....	38,63,371
5.—Salt	3,07,300	3,09,843	2,543	.....
6.—Stamps	1,84,999	3,46,029	1,61,030	.....
7.—Excise	4,06,779	4,60,501	53,722	.....
9.—Customs	.....	10,03,449	10,03,449	.....
10.—Assessed Taxes	92,339	1,16,809	24,470	.....
11.—Forest	3,51,754	5,16,442	1,64,688	.....
13.—Registration	4,80,183	.....	.....	4,80,183
14.—Interest on other obligations	85,598	92,708	7,110	.....
18.—General Administration	2,90,417	2,92,397	1,980	.....
23.—Ecclesiastical	2,00,826	2,13,087	12,261	.....
25.—Political	27,478	59,381	31,903	.....
26.—Scientific and other Minor Departments ...	28,518	24,769	.....	3,749
27.—Territorial and Political Pensions ...	10,02,598	9,93,965	.....	8,633
28.—Civil Furlough	141	211	70	.....
29.—Superannuation	42,461	45,464	3,003	.....
30.—Stationery and Printing	21,87,923	5,93,380	.....	15,94,543
32.—Miscellaneous	45,019	36,380	.....	8,639
45.—Civil Works	906	73,446	72,540	.....
Total ...	4,07,56,873	3,63,80,684	16,57,859	60,34,048

The principal increases and decreases are explained mainly by the causes noted below:—*Land Revenue*—Larger outlay on Eastern Bengal Survey operations and other settlement operations; *Stamps, Excise, Assessed Taxes and Forests*, owing to the change in the Imperial share of expenditure as explained on the receipts side; *Customs*—The charges have been made wholly Imperial; *Ecclesiastical*—Appointment of a second Chaplain in the Church of Scotland, whose post was vacant in the preceding year, and larger allowances to senior Chaplains; *Political*—Temporary appointment of Mr. Beil to assist the Political Agent, Sikkim, deputation of Major Bird to Kabul, and payment of reward to Rai Sarat Chandra Das Bahadur for completion of Tibetan Dictionary; *Civil Works*—Payment of contribution to the Calcutta Corporation for three years towards the improvement of the official and commercial centres of Calcutta, and for paving with asphalt the Strand Road in front of the Assay Office, Calcutta, and the acquisition of "Tempest Hill" property in Chittagong; *Refunds and Drawbacks*—Smaller refunds of Customs duties; *Opium*—Smaller payments to cultivators due to smaller outturn; *Stationery and Printing*—Transfer of charges for Purchase of Stationery for Central Stores to the India books, with effect from the 1st July 1904.

Land Revenue.

[Report on the Land Revenue Administration of the Lower Provinces for 1904-1905.]

Classification of Estates.

474. In the year under report, there were 177,257 estates in Class I (permanently-settled estates), 10,361 in class II (temporarily-settled estates), and 3,368 in Class III (estates held direct by Government), against 176,304, 10,499 and 3,266, respectively, in the previous year, giving an increase of 917 in the total number of estates.

Demand.

475. The total current demand increased from Rs. 4,04,71,325 in 1903-1904 to Rs. 4,06, 26,914 in the year under review. As in the preceding year, the demand in Class I was the lowest and that in Class III the highest on record during the last five years. The decrease in Class I was due to the abatement of revenue on account of lands acquired for public purposes, to the transfer of estates to Class III on their purchase by Government at sales for arrears of revenue, and to the removal of estates from the revenue-roll, while the increase in Class III was the result of the settlement of new estates, re-settlements, the progressive increase of revenue and the transfer of estates from the other two classes.

Collections.

476. The total collections, current and arrear, amounted to Rs. 4,05,12,027, or 96·91 per cent., on the total demand of Rs. 4,18,0?,588, against Rs. 4,04,56,640, or 97·02 per cent., and the percentage of total collections on current demand was 99·72, against 99·96 of the year before. The total collections and remissions together (Rs. 4,06,32,563) represent 97·20 per cent. of the total demand, while the corresponding percentages for the two preceding years, 1902-1903 and 1903-1904, were 97·20 and 97·42, respectively.

Canal Revenue.

See under Chapter IV.—"Canals."

Sources of Revenue other than land.

CUSTOMS.

[Report on the Administration of the Customs Department in the Bengal Presidency for 1904-1905; Financial and Commercial Statistics of British India, Twelfth Issue; Section XXXIII, Merchandise Marks.]

Revenue from Customs.

477. The marginal statement shews the gross and net Customs duty, inclusive of the duty on imported *salt*, realized in the Presidency of Bengal in each of the past three years.

	1902-1903.	1903-1904.	1904-1905.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Import duty (excluding duty on salt)	1,60,50,002	1,50,13,083	1,73,03,918
Import duty on salt	2,64,19,671	2,14,95,083	2,20,58,314
Export duty	17,35,557	18,59,644	21,83,060
Total gross duty ...	4,42,05,230	3,83,67,810	4,15,45,292
REFUNDS AND DRAWBACKS—			
Imports	4,59,141	6,01,349	4,43,061
Exports	67,809	75,398	78,433
Total ...	5,26,950	6,76,747	5,21,494
Total net duty ...	4,36,78,280	3,76,91,063	4,10,23,798

There was a rise of 9·2 per cent. in the value of the aggregate sea-borne trade of Bengal, which was the highest recorded in any previous year. In the foreign

trade the rise in value was 9·6 per cent. and in the coasting trade 6·5 per cent. Only in the exports of precious metals was the foreign trade smaller, all other headings showing an increase in value. The coasting trade shows some fluctuations: there was a decrease in the imports of *gold* and *silver* and in the exports of foreign merchandise, but this scarcely affects the general rise manifested. Calcutta accounts for 97·2 per cent. of the foreign trade, Chittagong for 2·5 per cent. and the remaining ports for ·3 per cent. In the coasting trade 90·4 per cent. of the aggregate value was appropriated by Calcutta and 6 per cent. by Chittagong. Taking the foreign and the coasting trade together, Calcutta represents 93·35 per cent., Chittagong 3·02, Balasore ·39, Cuttack ·17, Puri ·04, and Narayanganj ·03.

Income of the Custom House, Calcutta.

475. The net income of the Custom House amounted to Rs. 3,83,59,566, against Rs. 3,51,17,467, representing an increase of Rs. 32,42,099, equivalent to 9·2 per cent., the increase being shared between customs and *salt*. Adding Rs. 25,89,028 paid into the district treasuries on account of *salt* transferred from bond at Calcutta to the inland bonded warehouses, the net revenue rises to Rs. 4,09,48,594 as compared with Rs. 3,77,52,972, an increase of 8·4 per cent. "Deposits," which are a suspense account, have not been shown on either side of the account, although they amount to Rs. 3,93,413 on the receipt side and Rs. 2,84,862 on the payment side.

Receipts and disbursements at the subordinate ports in Bengal.

479. The aggregate receipts amounted to Rs. 22,79,264 and the disbursements to Rs. 91,189, giving a net income of Rs. 21,88,075. The revenue increased by Rs. 1,11,933, or by 5·3 per cent., over the net income of the previous year owing to increased receipts of *salt* duty.

Cases adjudged under the Sea Customs Act.

480. These cases numbered 282 as compared with 214 of the previous year. The extra duty realized amounted to Rs. 23,819-5 as against Rs. 7,555-2 in 1903-1904. The average per case works out at Rs. 93-6-6 as compared with Rs. 35-4 for the preceding year. The aggregate amount of penalties realized was Rs. 11,784, as against Rs. 25,518-2-10 in the previous year, but a larger amount than in the year before, Rs. 3,785-5. In 1903-1904 several very large penalties were inflicted, owing to the detection of serious frauds. In the year under review, one fraud, which was on a large scale, was detected, and steps have been taken to prevent a possibility of its recurrence. Of the total cases mentioned, 255 consisted of misdeclarations and undervaluations detected by the Appraisers. The offences fell mostly under section 32, and were due to inaccuracies in the preparation of bills of entry. Three instances of undervaluation deserve mention. In the first the value of certain consignments of cigarettes was increased from Rs. 64,252 to Rs. 76,062: in the second some very large consignments of sugar were raised from Rs. 20,26,418 to Rs. 23,78,065; and in the third some large imports of cotton piece-goods were raised from Rs. 2,83,257 to Rs. 3,10,393. In 26 cases dutiable goods were described as free goods, and in 25 goods were found in excess. Eighty notices for undervaluation were issued under section 32 of the Act. Three consignments were taken over by Government and their disposal resulted in a net profit of Rs. 143-11-3. There were 18 cases in which exports were found to be falsely described or the quantity of which was misdeclared; penalties amounting to Rs. 7,616 were imposed. In one instance the export of prohibited goods was detected. Nine cases of offences against the Sea Customs Act, in which penalties were imposed, were detected by the Preventive Service, besides three opium cases and numerous other cases in which no penalty was inflicted.

Appeals.

481. There were 19 appeals against the orders of the Collector of Customs under the Sea Customs Act in the past year and 3 under the Tariff Act. Of the 19 cases under the Sea Customs Act, 11 were rejected by the Board, 2 were upheld, in 2 the penalty was reduced and in 3 cases the penalties were remitted. Of the 3 appeals under the Tariff Act, 2 were rejected by the Board and 1 admitted. One case under the Sea Customs Act was pending at the end of the year.

Miscellaneous matters.

482. The number of Customs documents dealt with increased by 17,588 as compared with the previous year, the total showing an advance of 28,342 over 1902-1903. Import bills of entry rose from 113,487 to 122,187, export shipping bills from 87,729 to 96,617, warehousing and clearance passes for bonded goods and salt from 15,137 to 15,386. There was an increase in the amount of stamp duty levied from Rs. 19,256-3 to Rs. 27,302-4.

Working of the Merchandise Marks Act.

483. Hitherto it has been the custom to submit a separate report on this subject, but orders were received during the year to incorporate it in the general report.

Cases under the Merchandise Marks Act rose to 493 against 325 in the previous year and 251 in the year before that. The increase is attributed to the increased activity and vigilance of the Custom House Officers, and was not due to greater laxity in the observance of the provisions of the Act. All the cases were disposed of by the Collector. There were two appeals made during the year, both of which were rejected by the Board of Revenue. The total amount of penalties was Rs. 10,348, of which Rs. 3,935 were imposed in cases of the fraudulent reeling of yarn. All the cases except the cases of counterfeit trade marks were detected by the Appraising staff.

OPIUM.

[Report on the Administration of the Opium Department for the year 1903-1904; Financial and Commercial Statistics of British India, Twelfth Issue; Section IV.]

Settlements.

484. In the Bihar Agency 344,730 bighas were settled as compared with 346,956 in the previous year, showing a further decrease of 2,226 bighas, which is ascribed mainly to the rejection of unprofitable cultivation. This cause accounts for the large decrease in Tirhut (1,914 bighas) and Aliganj (956 bighas) and partly for that in Bettiah (996 bighas). It is noteworthy that in the previous year Tirhut showed an increase of 2,244 bighas. The continued decline in Aliganj was anticipated in last year's report. There was, on the other hand, a substantial increase in Tehta, Monghyr and Patna. Monghyr, it may be noted, has now shown an increase of nearly 800 bighas each in two successive years. On the whole, five Sub-Agencies showed an increase and five a decrease during the year under review, while Gaya, where there was a drop of nearly 2,000 bighas in the previous year, remained practically stationary.

Measurements and actual cultivation.

485. In the preceding year both Agencies showed a deficiency in the area sown, as compared with that settled, amounting in Bihar to 6,392 bighas and in Benares to 12,551. In the year under review Bihar showed a deficiency of only 2,171 bighas, whereas Benares showed an actual excess of 17,429 bighas. The failures due to climatic causes affected 10,551 bighas in Bihar and 13,940 bighas in Benares, as compared with 7,781 and 12,303, respectively, in 1902-1903. In Bihar the largest failure, viz., 4,069 bighas in Tirhut, is reported to have been due "to the sowings having failed altogether in large areas of unirrigated cultivation owing to total want of rain during the latter half of October and the whole of November." The area lost by non-fulfilment of engagements was considerably less in both Agencies than that reported during the preceding year. In Bihar the total loss on this account was 6,141 bighas, out of which no less than 3,648 bighas occurred in Tirhut, where the loss amounted to over 13 per cent. of the total area engaged for. These figures are remarkable, the more so as Tirhut is the only Sub-Agency in Bihar where the percentage of personal attendance at settlements is high. The Agent will be asked to submit a further report upon the subject. In Benares the total loss through non-fulfilment of engagements fell from 19,686 to 4,981 bighas, the most noticeable failure being in the Bareilly Division, the settlements of one of the subdivisions of which were, it is said, open to serious objections.

Weather and general results.

486. In the Bihar Agency heavy rain fell at the end of October in all the Sub-Agencies except Muzaffarpur and Hazaribagh and provided favourable conditions for early and successful sowings. The young crop looked exceedingly well and promising. But the cloudy weather and rain in February injuriously affected the crop, especially in places where lancing operations had commenced, and finally in the early part of March, when collections were in full swing, strong west winds began to blow which retarded the exudation of the drug and quickly dried up the scarified capsules.

In Benares the monsoon of 1903 ended with exceptionally heavy falls of rain in the first fortnight of October. Sowings were general in the third week in October, except in low-lying lands. Germination was good, but the intense

heat which followed was disastrous, and second and third sowings were not uncommon. The plant at first did well, but in many Divisions it soon became apparent that the soil was oversaturated when the sowings took place, while damage by caterpillars was general, owing probably to the insufficient tillage of the soil after the heavy rainfall. There was a sprinkling of rain in some places about the end of December, but otherwise the weather was dry and clear up to the middle of January, when rain fell in the south-east of the Agency and in some other parts. In the third week of February some rain also fell, and in the early part of March the rainfall was general, and was accompanied in three or four Divisions by hail. The cloudy weather which prevailed at the end of February and in the early part of March interfered with collections and rendered difficult the manufacture of good leaf.

Outturn of opium.

487. The outturn of opium during the year under review was 112,411 maunds. The *aamdeta* produce at 70° consistence in the two Agencies was 12,745 maunds less than that of the previous year. In Bihar the general average gross produce per bigha (excluding failures) was 3 seers 14 chitaks and 2 kutchas during the year under report, against 4 seers 3 chitaks in the preceding year, and 3 seers 6 chitaks and 3 kutchas on the average of the preceding seven years. In the several sub-agencies the average varied from 5 seers 11 chitaks 3 kutchas in Tehta to 1 seer 11 chitaks in Bettiah. No explanation of this variation has been given. In Benares the average produce per bigha fell from 5 seers 13 chitaks in the preceding year to 4 seers 9 chitaks during the year under report. This is, however, higher than the average (4 seers 7 chitaks) of the preceding seven years. The best divisional average was that of Budaon (6 seers), and the worst that of Cawnpore (3 seers), where some damage was done by hail.

Consistence of the season's opium.

488. The average consistence of the opium manufactured in the Bihar Agency was 74·68° as compared with 73·80° during the previous year, the improvement being due to the strong west winds that prevailed at the time of collection. On the other hand the consistence of the drug in the Benares Agency was abnormally low, the average being 67·98°, as compared with 70·72° in 1902-1903, which was also the average of the last ten years. This decline is reported to be due partly to the over-saturation of the soil at the time of sowing and partly to the cloudy weather with which the season closed.

Abolition of *khurchan* in the Benares Agency.

489. "The chief incident of the weighment season," writes the Benares Agent, "was the abolition of *lambardars' khurchan*, and the substitution therefor of a commission calculated upon the yield of each license, the effect of which is that Government now pays for the services of the *lambardars*, instead of saddling the cultivators with this cost. In several Divisions I was informed that the change was received by the cultivators with absolute indifference, but in others it was welcomed by the cultivators as much as it was welcomed by the officers of the Department. In one Division a curious matter came to my notice. The *lambardars* had previously been in the habit of dividing the *khurchan* with the cultivators. This year, notwithstanding the fact that nothing had been taken from the latter, they insisted on the *lambardars* dividing with them the commission paid by Government." The abolition of *khurchan* was an excellent measure, as it furnished a constant source of dispute between the *lambardar* and his *asamis*. The additional charge to Government is not large.

SALT.

[Report on the Administration of the Salt Department for 1904-1905; Financial and Commercial Statistics of British India, Section III.]

Reduction of duty.

490. The most important incident of the year was a further reduction, from Rs. 2 to Re. 1-8 per maund of 82⅔ lbs. avoirdupois, in the duty on salt manufactured in any part of British India other than Burma or Aden or imported into any part of British India other than Burma, with effect from the 22nd March 1905.

Administration.

491. In January 1905, the Superintendent of Puri was transferred to Chittagong, an Inspector taking his place at Puri. In the following February

the Khurda thana of this district was excluded from the area of preventive operations, as it was free from saline soils. Beyond these changes the limits of circles, ranges and parties remained the same as in the previous year. The block system of patrol, introduced in the preceding year, has continued to prove effective in the prevention of salt crime.

The scheme for the reorganization of the Salt Department, has been sanctioned by the Secretary of State. The orders were not, however, received till after the close of the year. The Commissioner of Excise and Salt, Bengal, has since made revised proposals in the light of changed circumstances, and they have been submitted for the orders of Government.

The Salt Committee.

492. The orders of Government upon the Committee's report were received during the year under review.

As regards the amalgamation of the Bengal and the Northern India Salt Departments, the Committee were of opinion that it would be preferable to leave matters as they were. An expression of the Board's views on the subject was called for by Government; and the Board, observed that there were no sufficient reasons for seeking the suggested amalgamation in the interests of the Bengal Salt Administration, and that no administrative benefits would accrue from such amalgamation.

As regards the bonding system, the Government of India agreed generally in the conclusions of the Salt Committee. They were of opinion that the system of inland warehouses offers a distinct convenience and economy to the trade, while on the other hand it involves some trouble and expense to Government. They considered that in districts with water communication the advantages of the system outweighed its drawbacks. In other districts, where the trade had been slow to take advantage of the warehouse system, the Government of India were disinclined to permit its introduction.

With regard to the allowance for wastage on bonded salt, the Government of India accepted the conclusions of the Committee that a deduction from the duty payable should be allowed on account of actual wastage up to a maximum of 2 per cent. on each consignment.

Stocks and clearances.

493. The stocks of salt held at the commencement of the year in all *golas*, both public and private, were over 2½ lakhs of maunds less than on the 1st April 1903, but the quantity of salt imported during the year under report increased by more than 10 lakhs of maunds. The clearances were larger than those of the previous year by nearly 4½ lakhs. After allowing for wastage the closing balance stood at 27,55,364 maunds. In addition to this, at he close of the year, there were 3,63,662 maunds of salt lying afloat in ships in the port of Calcutta against 1,75,680 maunds at the end of 1903-04.

During the year under report the percentage on the total importations of salt bonded in the Sulkea and Kidderpore Dock *golas* amounted to 70 as against 68 in the previous year; it is probable that the figures would have been higher had more bonding accommodation been available.

The importations into Calcutta during the year show an increase of 6·2 per cent., for which the United Kingdom, Salif, Aden and Bombay were mainly responsible. The increase of over 1¼ lakhs of maunds from the United Kingdom indicates that the popularity of Liverpool salt is well maintained. Imports from Salif were the highest on record. On the other hand, importations from the Persian Gulf are steadily dwindling with the disappearance of Arab sailing vessels. The trade in Bombay salt, which fell off greatly last year, revived during the year under report when the importation was nearly up to the average of former years. The increase shown last year in importations from Madras ports was not maintained, the reasons assigned being the competition of Bombay salt and the difficulty in obtaining freight. A large consignment of Spanish salt arrived at the close of the year, but it is too early yet to say whether this venture will be a financial success.

In Chittagong the importations advanced by 89·5 per cent. over those of the previous year. This large increase is due to competition among the salt merchants and the greater facilities for transport afforded by rail.

Sales of imported salt from shipboard and bond.

494. There was an increase of 3·7 per cent. in the sales of imported salt; 20 per cent. was sold from shipboard and 80 per cent. from bond, against 21 and 79 per cent., respectively, in the preceding year. In Calcutta the sales from the importing vessels direct decreased by 7·9 per cent., but the sales from

bond increased by 7·7 per cent. Of the vessels carrying salt into Calcutta during the year, 94 per cent. were steamers.

Transactions in the Sulkea and Kidderpore Dock golas.

495. The Collector of Customs, Calcutta, reports that the turn-over was the highest on record, that the bonding space at both Sulkea and Kidderpore Docks was found inadequate to meet the demands of the bonders, and that notice had to be given to merchants to restrict importations. New sheds are now under construction at Sulkea, and by lowering the floors of the old *golas* additional space for about three lakhs of maunds has been obtained. It is doubtful, however, whether these additions will satisfy the trade, as with the further reduction in duty, a great increase in importations is anticipated.

Inland bonded warehouses.

496. Licenses for four additional private bonded warehouses were issued, while one warehouse (at Dacca) was closed during the year under review. At the close of the year there were in all 30 warehouses open, all of which, excepting two at Chandbali, were in Eastern Bengal.

In all 97,50,543 maunds of duty-paid salt were conveyed from Calcutta inland, as well as to Orissa, during the year.

Inland transport of duty-paid salt.

497. There was an increase of 2·7 per cent. in the total quantity of duty-paid salt transported from Calcutta. Of the aggregate quantity despatched from Calcutta, 22·66 per cent. was conveyed by boats, 10·53 per cent. by steamers and flats, and 66·81 per cent. by rail as against 23·08, 10·07 and 66·85 per cent., respectively, during the previous year.

Imports of Madras salt into Orissa by land.

498 The quantity of Madras *karkatch* and refined salt imported into Orissa by land during the year under report was 10,15,292 maunds against 9,18,823 maunds in the previous year, showing an increase of 96,469 maunds or 10·5 per cent.

Consumption in Bengal.

499. The total quantity of salt which passed into consumption in the entire Province of Bengal during the year under review was 1,14,89,602 maunds. This is exclusive of 2,51,875 maunds, being the net exports by land, but inclusive of 15,594 maunds educed from saltpetre. In comparison with the preceding year the figures show an increase of 3,41,271 maunds or 3 per cent. Of the total quantity, the saliferous tracts (including the whole of Orissa) took 20,82,866 maunds, or 18·13 per cent., and the rest of the Province 94,06,736 maunds, or 81·87 per cent. The resulting rate of consumption per head in the saliferous tracts including Orissa was 6 seers 4 chitaks, or 12·86 lbs., and in the rest of the Province 5 seers 9 chitaks, or 11·44 lbs. The corresponding averages during the previous year were 12·47 lbs. and 11·18 lbs., respectively. It will be noticed that in both years the average consumption in the saliferous tracts exceeded that in the remainder of the Province.

Consumption of salt in the town of Calcutta.

500. The quantity of salt consumed in the town of Calcutta during the years 1903-1904 and 1904-1905 amounted to 1,63,055 maunds and 1,52,281 maunds, respectively, giving an average annual consumption of 7 seers 8 chitaks and 7 seers, respectively, or of 15 and 14·4 pounds approximately per head of the population, calculated on the census figures of 1901 *plus* the usual allowance for annual increase.

Prices of salt in Bengal generally.

501. The reduction in the rate of duty from Rs. 2-8 to Rs. 2 a maund had brought about a fall in retail prices which was generally maintained throughout the year, affording appreciable relief to the poorer classes. The further reduction in duty from Rs. 2 to Re. 1-8 a maund from the 22nd March 1905 produced no effect on prices during the year under review as the wholesale vendors had to dispose of stocks on which they had paid the higher rate of duty. It is anticipated that the further reduction will again lower prices and thus remove to a considerable extent the inducement to illicit manufacture. The average wholesale price for the whole Province was Rs. 3-1-5 per maund as compared with Rs. 3-2-10 in 1903-1904 and Rs. 3-10-9 in 1902-1903. As compared with 1902-1903 the fall amounted to annas 9-4, or anna 1-4 more than the reduction in duty, the latter sum probably representing the marked reduction in the average wholesale price in Calcutta. The Board have reason to believe that the retail purchaser of at least one seer or more has also benefited to the full extent of the reduced duty, and it is anticipated that the results will be more appreciable now that the reduction amounts to one rupee. The market has already made a decisive response, and the purchasers, both wholesale and retail, have practically begun to appropriate the ntire reduction.

Exclusive of duty, the average wholesale price of Liverpool salt per hundred maunds as sold from the ship's side in the port of Calcutta amounted to Rs. 48-10-2 during the year as compared with Rs. 53-11-5 in 1903-1904. Prices, which in 1903-1904 varied from Rs. 50 to Rs. 56-9-7, fluctuated in the year under report from Rs. 46-6-6 to Rs. 51-5-4.

Preventive operations in the saliferous districts.

502. As in the previous year, operations for the prevention and suppression of illicit manufacture of salt were carried on in the districts of the 24-Parganas, Midnapore, Howrah and Khulna under the immediate supervision and control of the Assistant Commissioner, and in Chittagong under the Collector, who has been vested with the powers of an Assistant Commissioner under the Indian Salt Act, XII of 1882. The proposals for the entertainment of a regular preventive staff for the districts of Howrah and Noakhali made by the late Commissioner of Excise and Salt, Bengal, in April 1903, have been sanctioned by the Secretary of State. The sanction has been received after the close of the year, and steps are being taken to give partial effect to the scheme during the present year. Illicit salt was attached, released and confiscated in 830, 1 and 886 cases, respectively, during the year under report, as against 1,135, 7 and 1,510 in the previous year, to the extent of 86 maunds 10 seers and 101 maunds, against 3,272, 3,157 and 189 maunds during the year 1903-1904. There was thus a decrease of 3,186 maunds in the quantity attached and of 88 maunds in the quantity confiscated. This is an indication that illicit manufacture has been brought under control and that very little illicit salt now enters the market.

Financial results.

503. The results of the year as compared with those of 1903-1904 show an increase of Rs. 5,60,562, or 2·6 per cent. in the receipts, and a decrease of Rs. 15,304, or 3·09 per cent., in the charges, giving a net revenue of Rs. 2,18,93,051, which exceeds that of 1903-1904 by Rs. 5,75,866, or 2·7 per cent. It is to be noted that the charges do not include a proportionate share of the cost of the Customs Preventive Service which is largely employed in safeguarding the salt revenue. The increase in receipts occurs mainly under the two heads of Import duty on salt and Rent of warehouses. The increase under these heads was due to a large increase in the quantity of salt imported and bonded during the year under report.

Trade in saltpetre.

504. The quantity of salt educed in the manufacture of saltpetre and removed from all the refineries in the Province on payment of duty during the year was 15,594 maunds as compared with 22,276 maunds similarly removed in 1903-1904.

EXCISE.

[Report on the Administration of the Excise Department in Bengal, 1905. Financial and Commercial Statistics of British India, Section V.]

Excise Revenue and charges.

505. The excise revenue of the year amounted to Rs. 1,67,90,652, charges to Rs. 8,14,375 and the net revenue to Rs. 1,59,76,277. The net revenue shows an increase of Rs. 4,92,643, or 3·18 per cent., over the figures of the previous year, and is the highest on record. The total revenue showed an increase of Rs. 4,94,182, or 3·03 per cent. The increase was common to all but eleven districts.

There was an increase under every head, except *Pachwai*, Opium, Miscellaneous, *Siddhi* and Cocaine. The largest increase occurred, as in the previous year, under the head "Country-spirits," being Rs. 3,64,230. *Ganja* comes next with an increase of Rs. 1,29,065, followed by Rum and Imported Wines, which yielded an increase of Rs. 19,330 and Rs. 6,504, respectively. The largest decrease (Rs. 14,749) occurred under the head *Pachwai*. Opium comes next with a decrease of Rs. 14,498. The fluctuations in the revenue from the different excisable articles are discussed in the sections appropriated to each.

Demand, collection and balance.

506. Of the gross demand of Rs. 1,68,22,723, a sum of Rs. 1,67,90,652, or 99·8 per cent., was realized. Of the balance of Rs. 32,071, the sum of Rs. 8,955 was remitted as irrecoverable; while of the net arrear balance (Rs. 23,116) a sum of Rs. 1,665 has been recovered, the realization of Rs. 2,314 is doubtful, Rs. 11,848 are said to be irrecoverable, and the remainder (Rs. 7,289) is in course of realization. Taking the population of Bengal

according to the last census at 75 millons, the incidence of the excise revenue of the year is 3 annas 7 pies per head against 3 annas 6 pies in the previous year; but allowing for an increase of 7 per thousand per annum as representing the average annual growth of population, the incidence of the excise revenue is 3 annas 6 pies per head.

There has been a net increase of Rs. 6,32,621 in the settlements for the past year shared by all the Divisions, excepting Burdwan and Rajshahi, which show a decrease of Rs. 9,675 and Rs. 11,325, respectively.

507. A distillery at Pakour in the Sonthal Parganas has been opened from September 1904. **Country spirit.**

The system of colouring distillery liquor with the new dye selected by the Chemical Examiner to Government was in force during the year in the districts of the Burdwan and Patna Divisions, and in Monghyr, Bhagalpur, the Sonthal Parganas, Balasore and Hazaribagh. Objections were at first raised both by vendors and consumers in the Bihar districts, and the colouring of distillery liquor was temporarily suspended in Patna, Gaya, Saran and Bhagalpur on account of the plague scare. The consumers have, however, become accustomed to the use of the coloured liquor, and no prejudice seems now to exist. In fact in some districts decided preference for the coloured spirit is expressed. The colouring has undoubtedly produced a salutary effect in checking illicit practices.

508. During the year the manufacture and sale of country spirits were carried on in Bengal under two systems—the fixed duty or *Central Distillery* system and the *Outstill* system. From the former, the receipts during the year under review were Rs. 39,74,582, and from the latter Rs. 42,93,310. **Systems under which country-spirit revenue is realised.**

509. The total number of licenses issued was 2,154 against 2,145 in the previous year, showing an increase of 9. There was an increase of 13 outstills in 10 districts, due to the opening of new outstills in order to meet local requirements and to check illicit practices, while 4 outstills were closed in three districts as being unnecessary. **Outstills.**

The revenue from license-fees increased from Rs. 40,13,222 to Rs. 42,93,310, or by Rs. 2,80,088. Of the 30 districts in which the outstill system was in force there was an increase of Rs. 3,08,523 in 23 districts and a decrease of Rs. 28,435 in the remaining 7 districts. The increase was due to competition at the annual sales and to larger collections of advance fees. The decrease was heavy in Manbhum (Rs. 16,653) and Midnapore (Rs. 10,017). The decrease in Manbhum is attributed to the decrease in the number of coolies working in local collieries and on railway lines, and also to ruinous competition among vendors in previous years. The decrease in Midnapore was due to the abolition of outstills from the current year and consequent non-realization of advance fees.

The total receipts from distillery liquor and outstills were Rs. 82,67,892 against Rs. 79,03,662, showing an increase of Rs. 3,64,230.

510. There was no change in the number of licenses or in the conditions under which country rum is sold. **Country Rum.**

The receipts from license-fees amounted to Rs. 22,280 against Rs. 21,762 in the previous year, showing an increase of Rs. 518. The increase was due to settlement of a rum shop in Calcutta, which had remained closed during the preceding year.

511. The total number of licenses issued for the sale of imported liquor was 661 against 658 in the previous year, showing an increase of 3. Three new retail licenses were issued in Backergunge to check direct importations from Calcutta, which are liable to lead to illicit sales. **Imported Liquor.**

The total receipts which are derived from license-fees alone amounted to Rs. 3,83,455 against Rs. 3,76,951 in the previous year, showing an increase of Rs. 6,504. There was an increase amounting to Rs. 18,423 in 25 districts, while in 19 districts there was a decrease of Rs. 11,919. In two districts the revenue was stationary. No license was taken out for the sale of imported liquor in Angul. The increase was large in Hooghly (Rs. 1,618), 24-Parganas (Rs. 1,929), Darjeeling (Rs. 2,898), Mymensingh (Rs. 1,834), Tippera (Rs. 2,302), and Patna (Rs. 2,269). A decrease of Rs. 6,489 in Calcutta is mostly nominal, being due to the payment of a portion of the year's demand in advance in March 1904.

Methylated spirit.

512. The total quantity of methylated spirit passed out was 142,799 gallons against 92,691 gallons in the previous year, and the receipts from duty amounted to Rs. 3,480 against Rs. 3,023.

Tari.

513. The licenses issued totalled 15,501 against 16,075 in the previous year, showing a decrease of 574. The receipts amounted to Rs. 10,98,769 against Rs. 10,95,699, showing an increase of Rs. 3,070.

The number of licenses issued was 13,817 against 13,839, showing a decrease of 22. The decrease was large in Patna (194), where many *pasis* died of plague. In Gaya there was an increase of 63 due to the splitting up of highly taxed shops. The receipts from fermented *tari* increased from Rs. 10,87,971 to Rs. 10,91,481, showing an increase of Rs. 3,510.

Licenses for the sale of fresh *tari* were issued in 26 districts against 27 districts in the previous year. The number of licenses fell from 2,236 to 1,684 and the revenue from Rs. 5,957 to Rs. 5,467.

The abolition of the tree-tax system has affected the revenue from *tari* and increased the number of disputes about *tari* trees amongt he vendors in the districts of the Patna Division. The Collectors of Patna, Darbhanga, and Muzaffarpur all report that the owners of trees are demanding increased rents and ousting the old men in favour of new competitors to the detriment of excise revenue. Under the tree-tax system there existed a number of small shops, each with its own schedule of trees within a fixed boundary. Now the vendors combine and hold only one shop, tapping as many trees as they like.

Pachwai.

514. The total number of licenses issued was 14,473 against 13,958 in the previous year, showing an increase of 515. The receipts fell from Rs. 5,97,938 to Rs. 5,83,189, or by Rs. 14,749.

The number of licenses issued for retail sale decreased from 1,676 to 1,672. The decrease of 4 was due to the closure of certain unnecessary shops. The revenue fell from Rs. 5,48,889 to Rs. 5,33,405, or by nearly 3 per cent.

The number of licenses issued for home-brewing increased from 12,282 to 12,801 and the revenue from Rs. 49,049 to Rs. 49,784. These fees are mostly levied from migratory coolies who originally inhabited Chota Nagpur, but are now to be found in small colonies in most Bengal districts, having been introduced to cope with the heavy work of clearing jungle and breaking virgin soil. The increase was large in the 24-Parganas, Jalpaiguri, and Malda.

Country Beer.

515. The total quantity of beer issued from the only two breweries in this Province at Sonada and Kurseong was 99,968 gallons against 70,369 gallons in the previous year. The increase of 29,599 gallons was mainly due to larger issues to the Commissariat Department. Of the total quantity issued, 68,814 gallons were supplied to the Commissariat Department, 27,854 gallons were sold to the public, and 3,300 gallons were consumed at the Seminary. The prescribed duty of one anna per gallon was levied on all beer issued. The total revenue, including license-fees and duty, amounted to Rs. 6,433 against Rs. 4,563 in the previous year, showing an increase of Rs. 1,870.

Ganja.

516. The area cultivated was 2,779 bighas, which is below the limit of 976 acres fixed by the Government of India. Conditions were favourable, and a full crop was secured for the second year in succession. Reduced to *chur* equivalent, the average outturn was even higher than in the previous year, being 2 maunds 21 seers 9 chitaks against 2 maunds 18 seers 11 chitaks.

The number of licenses for the retail sale of *ganja* issued during the year was 2,827 against 2,793 in 1903-04 and 2,760 in 1902-03. The increase is due to the opening of new shops to meet ascertained local demands. The license-fees realized amounted to Rs. 17,04,212, giving an increase of Rs. 51,828 over the previous year.

As in previous years, *ganja* was consumed in every district in the Province. The consumption was largest in Calcutta. It was also considerable in the districts of Mymensingh, Monghyr, Shahabad, Purnea, Bhagalpur and Dacca.

The most noticeable feature is the enormous increase in the consumption of first *ganja* and the corresponding decrease in the consumption of *chur*. The

enhancement of the duty on *chur ganja* from Rs. 9 to Rs. 12 a seer in January 1904 was manifestly higher than that commodity could bear in comparison with the other varieties. It was assumed that *chur* contained just double the amount of narcotic matter contained in flat *ganja*, but the dealers managed to convert one seer of flat *ganja* into about 11 chitaks of serviceable *chur*, instead of into 8 chitaks only as was anticipated when the duty was revised. Consequently, by taking flat instead of *chur*, the dealers made a clear profit of from two to three chitaks. The result was a great demand for flat twigs, and an accumulation of *chur* in the warehouse, much to the disgust of the cultivators who had manufactured larger quantities of *chur* in view of the large demand for that variety in previous years. Eventually it was found necessary to prohibit the issue of flat *ganja* from the warehouse, and ultimately a single rate of duty has been fixed, which will tend to cause the gradual elimination of all sticks and inert matter from the *ganja* and the supply to consumers of a purer and more carefully prepared article.

The total receipts amounted to Rs. 34,60,787 against Rs. 33,31,722 in the year 1903-1904, the net increase being Rs. 1,29,065. The increase was most marked in the districts of Calcutta (Rs. 19,905), Shahabad (Rs. 18,795), Patna (Rs. 15,865), Mymensingh (Rs. 10,384), Bhagalpur (Rs. 9,664), and Faridpur (Rs. 7,881).

The incidence of license-fees per seer was Rs. 6·8 and of duty Rs. 7, giving a total taxation of Rs. 13·8, the figures for the previous year being Rs. 7·5, Rs. 7·6 and Rs. 15·1, respectively.

Siddhi, Bhang or sabzi.

517. Four hundred and fifty-three licenses were taken out in 38 districts against 434 licenses in 40 districts in the previous year. There was an increase of 25 licenses in 11 districts, new shops being opened in order to meet ascertained local demand and to check illicit practices. Five shops (two in each of the districts of Pabna and Monghyr and one in the Sonthal Parganas) were closed, as the sales were small. The experimental shop in the district of Purnea was abolished, as it did no business. The total quantity of *siddhi* issued from district warehouses was 1,078 maunds against 1,143 maunds in the previous year, showing a decrease of 65 maunds. The receipts from license-fees and duty amounted to Rs. 88,203 against Rs. 88,984 in the previous year, showing a decrease of Rs. 781. The decrease was due to diminished consumption.

Charas.

518. The number of licenses issued was 53 against 52 in the previous year. In Burdwan, a new shop was started during the year at Barakar to meet a demand for the drug.

The total quantity of *charas* imported during the year was 27 maunds 32 seers against 28 maunds 24 seers in the previous year, showing a decrease of 32 seers.

Majum.

519. During the year under report, 20 licenses were issued in 12 districts, as compared with 18 licenses in 11 districts in the previous year. The receipts, which are derived from license-fees alone, amounted to Rs. 1,774 against Rs. 1,722 in the previous year, showing an increase of Rs. 52.

Opium.

520. The total number of licenses issued for the retail sale of opium was 1,748 against 1,716 in the previous year, showing an increase of 32. There was an increase of 38 shops in 14 districts, due to the opening of new shops to meet ascertained local demand and to check illicit practices. The increase was large in the opium-producing district of Hazaribagh, and was due to the opening of several experimental shops at nominal fees to bring the licit drug within easy reach of the consumers and prevent their having recourse to the cultivators to meet their requirements. In five districts, six shops, which appeared unnecessary or in which the sales were small, were closed.

The quantity of opium sold was 2,235 maunds 9 seers against 2,258 maunds 15 seers in the previous year, or a decrease of 23 maunds 6 seers. The total receipts amounted to Rs. 25,77,594 against Rs. 25,92,092 in the previous year, showing a decrease of Rs. 14,498. There was an increase of Rs. 7,791 in license-fees, but a decrease of Rs. 22,289 in duty.

It is generally reported that there has been a decrease in the habit of opium-smoking, and that the amended Rule 4 (1)(*c*) of the opium rules, fixing the limit of possession for each person of opium used for smoking at one *tola*

and of the aggregate possesssion by a party of five or more persons assembled for the purpose of smoking at five *tolas*, is working well.

Cocaine.

521. The number of licenses issued was 244 against 344 in the previous year, and the receipts from license-fees amounted to Rs. 267 against Rs. 349. Licenses were restricted to the actual requirements of each district.

Offences against the Excise and Opium Laws.

522. During the year under review, 3,349 persons were arrested for offences against the Excise and Opium laws, compared with 4,024 persons in the previous year, showing a decrease of 675. The district of the Sonthal Parganas accounts for the whole of this decrease, as arrests there fell from 798 in 1903-1904 to 107 only in 1904-1905. The natural reaction after the repressive measures of the previous year and the action of the District Officer in personally warning all headmen of their responsibility in this matter had considerable effect. The conviction of sundry informers for concocting false cases also probably made others reluctant to come forward and help Excise Officers. The *Sonthal* looks upon fresh liquor as a panacea for all bodily ailments. It appears that informers went about in the guise of *ojhas* or medicine-men, induced the credulous *jungle* folk to distil liquor, and then secured their detection. The percentage of convictions was 87·8 against 89·6 in the previous year.

Work of Excise and other officers.

523. The number of persons arrested by Excise officers decreased from 3,022 in 1903-1904 to 2,424, or by 598, in the year of report, and those by other officers from 1,002 to 925, or by 77. Both the Excise and other officers obtained convictions in 87·8 per cent. of the cases sent up by them.

During the year the fines imposed and realized amounted, respectively, to Rs. 74,104 and Rs. 51,156 against Rs. 78,418 and Rs. 58,628 in the previous year. The amount realized was therefore 69 per cent. of the fines imposed against 74·7 per cent. in the previous year.

STAMPS.

[Resolution by the Board of Revenue, Lower Provinces, on the working of the Stamp Department for 1904-1905; Financial and Commercial Statistics of British India, Twelfth Issue, Section VII.]

Changes in the Law and Rules issued by Government and the Board.

524. Stamp revenue during the period under report was realised under the Indian Stamp Act, 1899 (II of 1899), and the Court-fees Act, VII of 1870, as amended by subsequent enactments. During this period Act XV of 1904 was passed to amend the Indian Stamp Act, 1899.

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 25, sub-section (1), clause (*b*), of the Co-operative Credit Societies' Act, 1904 (X of 1904), the Government of India remitted the stamp duty with which, under any law for the time being in force, instruments executed by or on behalf of any co-operative credit society for the time being registered under that Act, or instruments executed by any officer or member of any such society and relating to the business of the society, are respectively chargeable.

In exercise of the power conferred by section 35 of the Court-fees Act, 1870 (VII of 1870), the Government of India remitted the fees chargeable under Schedule II of the said Act on applications for copies of the documents detailed in clauses (4) and (15) of the Notification of the Department of Finance and Commerce, No. 4650, dated the 10th September 1889.

In exercise of the power conferred by the Bengal Government the Board have declared that the licensed vendors of stamps at Alipore, in the 24-Parganas, and at the Police Court and the Small Cause Court, in Calcutta, shall not be required to write, at the time of sale, the name of the purchaser and the date of sale on adhesive Court-fee stamps sold by them up to and inclusive of the value of one rupee.

The Government of India sanctioned the discontinuance of the issue of certain of the higher denominations of stamps at present in use, in view of

the small demand for them. It was decided by the Board that stamps of the descriptions referred to in the Government order shall continue to be supplied so long as the present stock of each denomination lasts.

Stamp Revenue.

525. The revenue collected under both the Stamp and Court-fees Acts during the year 1904-05 amounted to Rs. 2,08,65,770 and exceeded the receipts of any other year during the triennium, being Rs. 10,30,256 more than in 1903-1904 and Rs. 12,95,332 more than in 1902-1903. The increase of revenue occurred under both judicial and non-judicial stamps. While the receipts under the latter head received a set-back in 1903-1904, the receipts from the sale of Court-fee stamps increased steadily throughout the triennium. There has been a corresponding steady increase in the total charges during the past three years, although the general result shows an increase in the annual net income. The total charges during 1904-1905 amounted to Rs. 5,26,222, giving an increase of 0·2 and 6·2 per cent. over the figures of 1903-1904 and 1902-1903, respectively. The increased expenditure was due to the larger amount of discount paid to vendors on the increased sales of stamps.

Judicial stamps.

526. The sale-proceeds of Court-fee stamps (excluding stamps for copies), rose steadily during the past three years. The receipts during 1904-1905 amounted to Rs. 1,41,18,166 against Rs. 1,34,39,977 in 1903-1904. The increase is mainly attributed to larger resort to the Civil Courts, to the payment of heavy probate duties in respect of some large estates in Calcutta, and to the institution of suits of higher value in the Small Cause Court in Calcutta. There was an increase in the receipts from the sale of stamps for copies and of plain paper. The total receipts under the former head amounted to Rs. 8,17,614 against Rs. 7,82,975 in 1903-1904 and Rs. 7,67,522 in 1902-1903. Under the latter head the total receipts amounted to Rs. 3,16,934 and, compared with the receipts of the preceding two years, show an increase of Rs. 16,044 and Rs. 24,531, respectively.

Non-Judicial stamps.

527. Non-judicial stamps show an increase of revenue of Rs. 2,39,321, or 4·5 per cent., when compared with 1903-1904. The increase was shared by all classes of stamps.

The revenue derived from the sale of impressed stamps (the most important item among non-judicial stamps), rose from Rs. 34,89,903 in 1903-1904 to Rs. 35,65,322.

In 1904-1905 the revenue derived from the sale of *hundi*, or bill-of-exchange, stamps was Rs. 1,48,201, which exceeded those of 1903-1904 and 1902-1903 by Rs. 16,341 and Rs. 22,715, respectively.

Receipts from the sale of impressed labels, which are used only in Calcutta, was Rs. 8,80,000, as compared with Rs. 7,98,593 in 1903-1904. The income from one-anna receipt stamps continues to rise steadily from year to year.

Sale of stamps.

528. The total number of vendors engaged in the sale of judicial and non-judicial stamps during the year 1904-1905 was 6,237, showing a decrease, as compared with the previous two years, of 16 and 584 persons, respectively.

Deficient duty.

529. The number of cases in which deficient duty and penalty were levied by the Courts during the year shows an increase of 263 and there was an advance of Rs. 585 in the amount of duty and penalty realised in comparison with the realisations of the preceding year. There was an increase of 474 in the number of cases decided and of Rs. 38,954 in the duty and penalty realised by Revenue Officers as compared with the figures of the preceding year. The increase in the number of cases is attributed to the more careful examination of documents by Civil Courts and Revenue Officers, and to ignorance on the part of the public of the changes made by Act II of 1899.

Prosecution under the Stamp Act.

530. The number of cases instituted for the infringement of the provisions of the Stamp Act was 325, in which 352 persons were brought to trial against 356 cases and 376 persons in the preceding year. The fines imposed amounted to Rs. 5,044 against Rs. 3,747 in 1903-1904, while the amount distributed in rewards was Rs. 4,271 as against Rs. 2,420 in 1903-1904. The number of persons convicted was 334; the average fine imposed was therefore Rs. 15, which is considerably larger than the average for the corresponding year of the previous triennium.

INCOME-TAX.

[Resolution by the Board of Revenue, Lower Provinces, on the administration of the Income-tax Department for 1904-1905; Financial and Commercial Statistics of British India, Section VIII.]

Administration. 531. In 1904-1905 a thorough reorganization took place in the assessing establishments in the mufassal, by reason of the diminution of work effected by the revision of the law. The number of assessors was reduced from 43 to 24, and they were posted to Divisions instead of to districts. Of these 24 assessors, three were allotted to each of the Burdwan, Presidency, Rajshahi, Dacca, Bhagalpur, and Chota Nagpur Divisions, one each to the Chittagong and Orissa Divisions, and four to the Patna Division.

Financial results. 532. The receipts, charges and net revenue derived from the collection of Income-tax during the year were respectively, Rs. 50,36,527, Rs. 1,67,787 and Rs. 48,68,740. In 1903-1904 there was a decrease in the net revenue of 15·7 per cent., but this was followed by an increase of Rs. 1,01,855, or 2·1 per cent. in 1904-1905. The decrease in the former year was wholly due to the enactment of Act XI of 1903.

Collections. 533. The number of persons assessed and the amount of tax collected show an increase of 608 and 4,537 persons, or 4·2 and 42·4 per cent., and of Rs. 14,822 and Rs. 91,145, or 5·1 and 42·7, respectively, as compared with the figures of the two preceding years. The increase in 1903-1904 is no doubt very striking. The fact is, however, that the very substantial reduction in the number of assessees effected by Act XI of 1903 left the assessing agency more time to make careful inquiries, which was the more necessary to do, as the result of the classification meant paying Rs. 20 or total exemption instead of merely the next lowest grade as previously.

The total collections on account of tax under all parts during the year 1904-1905 show an increase of Rs. 1,06,996, or 2·5 per cent. over those of 1903-1904, and a decrease of Rs. 7,42,267, or 14·6 per cent. as compared with the figures of 1902-1903. The decrease is, of course, due to the elimination of assessees with incomes below Rs. 1,000, who had contributed Rs. 8,79,520, or 17·3 per cent. of the total collections of the latter year.

The gross collections during the year 1904-1905, including arrears of tax, penalties, etc., amounted to Rs. 45,57,828, as compared with Rs. 44,76,327 in 1903-1904 and Rs. 53,33,898 in 1902-1903.

The outstanding balance on account of tax, penalties and costs for the year 1904-1905, was Rs. 1,38,232 as compared with Rs. 2,27,700 in the year 1903-1904.

Forest Revenue.

[Progress Report of Forest Administration in the Lower Provinces of Bengal for 1904-1905.]

Forest Revenue. 534. The receipts from forests for the forest year, 1st July 1904 to 25th June 1905, were Rs. 12,35,455. Charges amounted to Rs. 7,13,212, leaving a net income of Rs. 5,22,743. The Sundarbans revenue shows only a moderate recovery from its decided fall in the previous year, being only Rs. 14,124 higher than in 1903-1904. But the increase in all other divisions amounted to Rs. 1,74,310, nearly the whole of it being due to increased sales of major produce, especially to increased sales of sâl timber which were made possible by the developments accomplished in the two previous years. All divisions except Angul were worked at a profit, and Angul would have shown a profit but for an extraordinary expenditure of Rs. 13,781 on surveys. There was an increase of revenue in every division, the most noteworthy increases being Buxa Rs. 57,534, Singhbhum Rs. 39,149, Jalpaiguri Rs. 33,322, and Angul Rs. 18,128.

Provincial Finance.

535. The following statement shows the actual receipts and charges on account of Provincial services for 1904-1905, as compared with those of 1903-1904:— Provincial Finance.

RECEIPTS.	1903-1904.	1904-1905.	EXPENDITURE.	1903-1904.	1904-1905.
	Rs.	Rs.	Direct demand on the revenues—	Rs.	Rs.
Opening balance	55,29,423	1,42,52,918	1. Refunds and drawbacks ...	1,87,834	1,23,273
			2. Assignments and compensations	1,65,710	1,50,697
			3. Land Revenue	39,50,712	42,93,324
			6. Stamps	5,54,999	3,46,028
Principal heads of Revenue—			7. Excise	4,06,779	3,58,167
			8. Provincial Rates	89,290	83,814
			9. Customs	9,77,774	.....
			10. Assessed Taxes	92,339	38,937
I.—Land Revenue { Proper ...	1,07,16,516	1,06,95,908	11. Forests	3,51,754	1,72,147
I.—Land Revenue { Adjustment	1,03,26,400	49,48,794	12. Registration	4,80,183	9,70,700
IV.—Stamps	1,48,76,636	1,04,30,354			
V.—Excise	81,47,972	73,45,749	Total ...	72,57,374	65,37,095
VI.—Provincial Rates	50,40,440	52,03,964			
VII.—Customs	2,58,337	.....	13. Interests on ordinary debt ...	1,95,718	1,96,486
VIII.—Assessed Taxes	24,72,908	12,58,314			
IX.—Forests	5,32,761	2,91,868	Post Office, Telegraph and Mint—		
X.—Registration	8,33,226	16,89,609	15. Post Office	6,055	.....
Total ...	5,32,05,196	4,16,64,560	Salaries and expenses of Civil Department—		
XII.—Interest	3,25,780	2,85,701	18. General Administration ...	19,04,676	19,27,272
			19. Law and { Courts of Law ...	96,48,518	98,62,503
			Justice { Jails	27,33,193	25,75,164
Receipts by Civil Department—			20. Police	65,71,635	67,45,832
			21. Marine	10,64,645	18,46,508
XVI.—Law and Justice—			22. Education...	34,41,833	36,32,002
			24. Medical	21,48,271	23,07,843
Courts of Law	8,08,224	7,98,065	25. Political	19,313	20,850
Jails	14,15,485	12,86,712	26. Scientific and other Minor Departments	7,00,871	7,00,389
XVII.—Police	1,84,038	1,80,205			
XVIII.—Marine	13,48,977	15,20,363	Total ...	2,82,32,955	2,96,18,363
XIX.—Education	7,08,701	7,27,698			
XX.—Medical	2,30,237	12,52,876	Miscellaneous—		
XXI.—Scientific and other Minor Departments	2,45,648	2,74,891	29. Superannuation, etc.	25,84,377	27,07,289
			30. Stationery and Printing ...	12,42,046	11,03,862
Total ...	49,41,310	51,46,780	32. Miscellaneous	3,43,648	3,42,812
			Total ...	41,70,071	41,53,963
Miscellaneous—					
			Railway (Revenue Accounts)—		
XXII.—Receipts in aid of Superannuation.	86,867	67,053	40. Subsidised Companies—Land, etc.	5,311	3,965
XXIII.—Stationery and Printing ...	1,45,615	1,45,866			
XXV.—Miscellaneous	11,33,785	7,91,020	Total ...	5,311	.....
Total ...	13,66,267	10,03,939			
			Irrigation—		
Irrigation—			42. Major works—		
			Working expenses	10,17,040	9,88,005
XXIX.—Major works (direct receipts)	20,20,889	20,46,167	Interest on debt	24,52,568	24,61,988
XXX.—Minor works and navigation—			43. Minor Works and Navigation—		
By Public Works Department	5,75,240	7,01,154	By Public Works Department.	17,62,188	16,86,998
By Civil Department ...	1,27,829	1,42,833	By Civil Department ...	5,548	6,569
Total ...	27,23,958	28,90,154	Total ...	52,37,344	51,32,560
			Buildings and Roads—		
Buildings and Roads—			45. Civil Works—		
			By Public Works Department	74,39,073	58,37,918
XXXII.—Civil Works—			By Civil Department ...	1,66,189	2,18,645
By Public Works Department	5,41,933	3,89,393	Total ...	76,05,262	60,56,563
By Civil Department ...	2,49,736	2,48,943	Contributions	19,86,545	14,52,771
Total ...	7,91,669	6,38,336	Total ...	5,46,96,635	5,31,51,766
Contributions	65,951	69,478	Closing balance ...	1,42,52,918	1,30,00,100
Total ...	6,34,20,131	5,18,98,948	GRAND TOTAL ...	6,89,49,553	6,61,51,867
GRAND TOTAL ...	6,89,49,553	6,61,51,866	Provincial surplus (+) or deficit (—) ...	+87,23,496	—12,52,818

536. The decrease under *Land Revenue* was chiefly under ordinary revenue. Under *adjustments* the actuals of 1903-1904 included special grants of 105 lakhs to Provincial by reduction of the Imperial share, while those of 1904-1905 contain an assignment of about 49 lakhs only which represents the fixed annual grant made in the new financial settlement in order to establish equilibrium between Revenue and Expenditure made over for Provincial management. The variations under the heads *Stamps*, *Excise*, *Assessed Taxes*, and *Forests* which are divided in fixed proportions between Imperial and Provincial have been explained in the section on Imperial Finance. The increase under *Provincial Rates* was under Public Works Cess and due to revision of assessment by valuation and revaluation in several districts. The receipts and charges under the head *Customs* have been made wholly Imperial, while those under the head *Registration* have been made wholly Provincial in the new settlement. The decrease under *Interest* was chiefly under Embankment Receipts.

and Drainage Advances; that under *Law and Justice and Courts of Law* was chiefly under Magisterial fines; while that under *Jails* was under sale proceeds of manufactures. The increase under *Marine* occurred under Pilotage receipts in the Port of Calcutta; that under *Education* was under contributions from private persons; while that under *Scientific and other Minor Departments* was chiefly due to larger sale of sulphate of quinine. The decrease under *Superannuation* was partly due to smaller recoveries of contributions from the Assam-Bengal Railway and partly to reversions to Government service; while that under *Miscellaneous* was chiefly under unclaimed deposits, the receipts under which are of a fluctuating nature, and partly under sale of old stores and materials, fees for Government Audit and miscellaneous.

The increase under *Irrigation—Major Works* was in the water-rate collections in the Sone Canal; that under *Minor Works and Navigation* was in the navigation receipts of the Calcutta and Eastern Canals owing to increased traffic, and to larger recoveries on account of lands benefited by embankments. The excess under *Civil Works* in 1903-04 was chiefly due to the sale of building No. 29, Chowringhee Road, Calcutta, in that year.

Expenditure.

537. The decrease under the heads *Refunds*, *Stamps*, *Excise*, *Assessed Taxes* and *Forests*, which are divided in fixed proportions between Imperial and Provincial, were due to the reduction in the Provincial share of expenditure as explained in the section on Imperial Finance. The decrease under *Assignments and Impositions* was due to smaller payments of malikana. The increase under *Land Revenue* was partly under Survey and Settlement charges and partly for larger expenditure on improvements of Government Estates. The charges under the head *Post office* have been made wholly Imperial in the new settlement. The increase under *General Administration* was partly for the purchase of a motor car for His Honour's use and for additional expenditure on renewal of furniture in Belvedere, partly under Civil Secretariat for the deputation of Mr. Savage on special duty in connection with the chaukidari work and partly also under the minor head Board of Revenue. The increase under *Law and Justice—Courts of Law*—was distributed under all the principal sub-heads—High Court; Law officers for larger payment of fees to pleaders; Civil and Sessions Courts for salaries of District and Sessions Judges and Munsifs and their establishment and Criminal Courts. The decrease under *Jails* was chiefly for smaller outlay on purchase of raw materials and partly for diet of prisoners. The increase under *Police* was in the District Executive force, chiefly for larger expenditure on salaries, Petty Construction and Repairs, and furniture of Police buildings and allowances; that under *Marine* was for the cost of the new steamer cruiser *Fraser*, while that under *Education* was for a special payment of 2 lakhs to the Calcutta University. The increase under *Medical* was chiefly for larger grants to hospitals and dispensaries, specially for grants for the construction of hospital buildings at Bankipur and Bhagalpur; while that under *Superannuation* was due to the continued growth of expenditure on superannuation and retired allowances. The decrease under *Stationery and Printing* was chiefly due to the charges of the Stationery Branch having been transferred to the India books from the 1st July 1904, and partly also in the Government Presses and in the cost of stationery supplied from Central Stores.

The short outlay under *Working Expenses of Irrigation Major Works* was due to a larger amount on account of percentage for establishment and tools and plant having been debited to the Buildings and Roads Branch than in the previous year; that under *Minor Works and Navigation* was in the expenditure on capital account of the Calcutta and Eastern Canals; while that under *Civil Works in charge of the Public Works Department* was under purchase of land and buildings as special purchases of land were made in the previous year for the new Surgical Ward in the Medical College, for the extension of the High Court, for the Presidency General Hospital, for quarters for officials of the Presidency Jail and the Commissioner of Police, Calcutta. The increase under *Civil Works in charge of the Civil Department* was for grants to the Calcutta Municipality for Jadabpur Cemetery, to Jalpaiguri, Jessore, Faridpur and Rangpur Municipalities for the construction of hospitals. The decrease under *Contributions* was due to the non-payment of the special grant of 5 lakhs to the District Boards for the improvement of communications.

Local Finance.

[Report on Local Funds in Bengal for the year 1904-1905.]

538. The following table shows the income, expenditure and opening and closing balances of the Incorporated Local Funds for the year 1904-1905 :—

Name of Fund.	Opening balance.	Receipts.	Total.	Payments.	Closing balance.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
District Fund	32,53,051	1,00,13,018	1,32,66,069	99,81,678	32,84,391
District Road Fund	1,00,912	2,22,997	3,23,909	2,09,262	1,14,647
District Road Account	6,632	56,972	63,604	53,949	9,655
District Post Fund	3,35,922	3,75,819	7,11,741	3,72,012	3,39,729
Inland Labour Transport Fund ...	.....	14,090	14,090	14,090	.....
Steam-Boiler Inspection Fund ...	80,631	48,108	1,28,739	43,528	85,211
Village Chaukidari Fund ...	90,536	3,87,770	4,78,306	3,81,192	97,114
Road Patrol Fund	19,616	45,011	64,627	37,146	27,481
District Chaukidari Reward Fund ...	74,851	81,539	1,56,390	64,183	92,207
Total ...	39,62,151	1,12,45,324	1,52,07,475	1,11,57,040	40,50,435

The grants made by Government to the District Funds, the District Road Funds and the District Road Account during the year were Rs. 12,32,059, Rs. 1,09,788 and Rs. 11,500, respectively. The District Post Fund in the Singhbhum district ceased to exist, and its balance was transferred to Provincial, which used to maintain the fund by contributions on the assumption of the local post-office there by the State. The total payments made in Bengal on account of the Inland Labour Transport Fund amounted to Rs. 35,299, of which Rs. 1,388 were debited to the Central Provinces and Rs. 19,821 to Assam. The Road Patrol Fund exists in the Chota Nagpur Division only, and its operations, which were formerly confined to the three districts of Hazaribagh, Palamau and Ranchi, were extended to Manbhum during the year.

The transactions of the Excluded Local Funds were as follows :—

Name of Fund.	Opening balance.	Receipts.	Total.	Payments.	Closing balance.
Police Funds.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Railway Police Clothing ...	3,236	7,160	10,396	5,315	5,081
Foundling Asylum	283	3,419	3,702	3,698	4
Fire-brigade	21,765	94,001	1,15,766	98,251	17,515
Calcutta and Suburban Police Superannuation.	12,558	42,367	54,925	35,640	19,285
Total ...	37,842	1,46,947	1,84,789	1,42,904	41,885
Marine Funds.					
Hospital Port Dues—					
Calcutta	2,92,700	1,40,324	4,33,024	89,977	3,43,047
Chittagong	4,572	10,258	14,830	6,920	7,910
Orissa Port	13,088	14,086	27,174	17,551	9,623
Total ...	3,10,360	1,64,668	4,75,028	1,14,448	3,60,580
Education Funds.					
Hindu College	987	4,752	5,739	5,564	175
Durga Churn Laha's Scholarship ...	.....	2,542	2,542	2,542	.....
Jagiara Estate	32	1,100	1,132	1,103	29
Total ...	1,019	8,394	9,413	9,209	204
Medical and Charitable Funds.					
Pilgrims' Lodging-house ...	57,647	79,672	1,37,319	1,01,838	35,481
Chuni Lal Seal's Endowment ...	900	4,246	5,146	3,816	1,330
Cantonment Hospital	20	5,628	5,648	5,639	9
Ram Lall Mukerjee's Endowment ...	5,828	5,240	11,068	5,284	5,784
Annachatra	1,621	30,855	32,476	29,440	3,036
Bengal Famine Orphan ...	1,961	974	2,935	259	2,676
Chittagong General Hospital ...	21,351	16,367	37,718	20,082	17,636
Total ...	89,328	1,42,982	2,32,310	1,66,358	65,952

Name of Fund.	Opening balance.	Receipts.	Total.	Payments.	Closing balance.
Public Works Funds.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Khondmal Road	6,327	7,830	14,157	7,276	6,881
Darjeeling Improvement ...	42,859	69,599	1,12,458	77,028	35,430
Total ...	49,186	77,429	1,26,615	84,304	42,311
Town and Bazar Funds.					
Western Duars Market ...	13,706	16,595	30,301	20,652	9,649
Chittagong Hill Tracts Bazar ...	4,145	4,180	8,325	2,342	5,983
Kolhan Market	.....	1,410	1,410	1,292	118
Total ...	17,851	22,185	40,036	24,286	15,750
Miscellaneous Funds.					
Muhammadan Burial Board ...	1,095	1,989	3,084	1,767	1,317
Zoological Gardens	9,189	50,725	59,914	44,708	15,206
Christian Burial Board ...	9,916	17,600	27,516	17,210	10,306
Mohsin Endowment	2,716	1,26,884	1,29,600	1,01,695	27,905
Total ...	22,916	1,97,198	2,20,114	1,65,380	54,734
Cantonment Funds.					
Cuttack	8,961	11,909	20,870	9,319	11,551
Alipur	128	2,908	3,036	2,642	394
Dum-Dum	1,457	20,418	21,875	18,116	3,759
Barrackpore	5,462	37,319	42,781	34,948	7,833
Jallapahar	716	10,341	11,057	9,660	1,397
Dorunda	1,096	2,639	3,735	2,238	1,497
Dinapore	2,619	33,896	36,515	29,935	6,580
Lebong	2,224	5,019	7,243	6,322	921
Buxa	118	2,127	2,245	2,077	168
Total ...	22,781	1,26,576	1,49,357	1,15,257	34,100
Chittagong Port Fund ...	60,073	1,28,960	1,89,033	80,928	1,08,105
Grand Total ...	6,11,356	10,15,339	16,26,695	9,03,074	7,23,621

One new Fund (the Kolhan Market Fund) was created during the year in Singhbhum for the improvement of the markets and trade generally in the Kolhan Government estate. The outdoor Dispensary Fund at Dum-Dum was converted into a Cantonment Hospital Fund. The Durga Charan Laha's Endowment Fund received a contribution of Rs. 726 from the Provincial Revenues to cover its excess expenditure. The Annachatra Fund received special Government contributions of Rs. 750 for surgical and medical outfit and Rs. 300 for Civil stores, etc. The receipts of the Khondmal Road Fund include a grant of Rs. 3,054, being equivalent to the plough-tax collections for the year 1903-04.

Special contributions were made during the year by the Military Department to the following Cantonment Funds:—For General Administration, Buxa Duars, Rs. 240; for conservancy, Buxa Duars, Rs. 1,815; Dinapore, Rs. 1,500, Jalapahar Rs. 7,207, and Lebong Rs. 3,536; for Hospitals and Dispensaries, Alipore Rs. 2,202, Dinapore Rs. 5,775, Dum-Dum Rs. 3,259 and Jalapahar Rs. 2,000. The Chittagong Port Trust received grant of Rs. 3,150 from the Provincial Revenues for payment to Mr. J. R. Bell for his report on the measures necessary for the improvement of the Port.

Road and Public Works Cesses.

Rate, land revenue demand and gross rental.

539. Both cesses were levied at the maximum rate of one anna in the rupee in the 43 districts in which the Cess Act, IX (B.C.) of 1880, is in force. The current demand of land revenue of these districts was Rs. 4,01,38,184, and the valuation, or gross rental, amounted to Rs. 18,12,99,084. The increase of Rs. 1,63,271 in the current demand, as compared with the previous year, was mainly due to revaluations in the districts of Rangpur

(Rs. 47,403), Noakhali (Rs. 39,365), Gaya (Rs. 28,842), Rajshahi (Rs. 17,267) and Hazaribagh (Rs. 16,400). It is satisfactory to note that with the large increase in the current demand there was an increase in collections by Rs. 2,77,114, giving a percentage of 100·4 against 99·2 in the preceding year. The balances were reduced from Rs. 17,12,989 to Rs. 16,63,454, and the percentage of the balance on the total demand from 14·9 to 14·2. The remissions and reductions, which amounted to Rs. 71,037, against Rs. 76,434, were chiefly granted in the districts of Burdwan, the 24-Parganas, Nadia, Khulna, Rangpur, Noakhali and Gaya, and call for no special remarks.

The districts are grouped in two classes—(i) those in which the collections attained the prescribed standard of 100 per cent. or more on the current demand, and (ii) those in which the collections were short of that standard. Twenty-two districts fell under class (i) and in seven of them the percentage of collections was more than 105. There were 21 districts in which the percentages did not reach the standard.

Working of the Certificate procedure.

540. The total number of certificates filed for the realization of cess arrears was 95,759, against 95,037 in the preceding year. The increase was shared by the Burdwan, Chittagong, Presidency, Chota Nagpur and Orissa Divisions, while there was a decrease in the Patna, Dacca, Bhagalpur and Rajshahi Divisions. The increase in Hooghly, Midnapore, the 24-Parganas, Murshidabad, Jessore, Backergunge, Chittagong, Tippera, Bhagalpur, Puri and Palamau was due to the filing of certificates for accumulated petty arrears of cesses to avoid limitation, and in Cuttack to the increase in the cess demand of the recent revaluation, which came into effect from 1st April 1903, and to the filing for the first time of certificates for revenue-free estates.

The total number of certificates for the whole Province pending at the close of the year shows a reduction as compared with the previous year, the percentage on the total number for disposal being 18·5 against 20·6.

Objections against certificates.

541. The total number of objections filed and disposed of was 6,320 and 6,278, against 6,525 and 6,359, respectively, in the previous year. The largest number of objections disposed of was in the districts of Shahabad (1,325), Saran (973), Burdwan (590) and Gaya (512). In 705 cases, against 660 in the preceding year, the certificates were cancelled for such reasons as the death or desertion of judgment-debtors, exemption of lands lying within municipal limits, double assessments, non-registration of names of holders of rent-free lands, errors in the land registration registers and wrong entries in the ledgers. The number of cases in which reductions were made in the amount certificated decreased from 432 in 1903-04 to 228.

Stage of procedure at which demands were satisfied.

542. In 24,799 cases, against 25,738 in 1903-04, arrears were recovered on the mere issue of notices; in 38,601 against 33,369 on the issue of notices for sale of defaulters' moveable properties; and in 16,371 against 18,950 on the issue of notices for the sale of defaulters' immoveable properties. Of the total number of sales (2,610 against 2,732 in 1903-04), 1,068 against 1,158 were set aside under sections 20 and 21 of the Public Demands Recovery Act I (B.C.) of 1895 as amended by Act I (B.C.) of 1899.

The highest number of sales set aside was in the districts of Darbhanga (187), Muzaffarpur (151), Patna (112), Monghyr (97), Shahabad (79), Saran (60) and the 24-Parganas (59).

Valuations and Revaluations.

543. Valuations or revaluations, partial or complete, are in progress in 29 out of the 44 districts (including the Sonthal Parganas) to which the Act applies.

During the year general revaluations were brought to a close in the districts of Saran, Malda and in the regulation portion of Jalpaiguri. The operations have resulted in an increase over the former cess demand of Rs. 12,298 or 3·4 per cent. in Saran, Rs. 7,554 or 27·9 per cent. in Malda, and Rs. 26,024 or 18·8 per cent. in Jalpaiguri. Revaluation proceedings on an extensive scale are in progress in the districts of Burdwan, Birbhum, Bankura, Hooghly, Dinajpur, Pabna, Mymensingh, Champaran and Muzaffarpur.

Separate accounts for revenue-paying and revenue-free estates.

544. Four thousand two hundred and forty separate accounts were opened during the year in revenue-paying estates, the total number of such accounts at the end of the year being 94,892, with a total cess demand of Rs. 18,92,778. In revenue-free estates 90 were opened, the total at the close of the year being 1,420 with a cess demand of Rs. 46,099.

Estates and tenures and their shareholders.

545. As compared with the previous year, there was an increase of 8,103 in the number of revenue-paying estates, of 265 in revenue-free estates and a decrease of 423 in rent-free lands. The number of tenures assessed increased by 71,430; that of shareholders of estates and tenures also showed an increase of 15,562 and 161,909, respectively. The increase was due to the opening of separate accounts, partitions, mutation of names, addition of new estates, valuations and revaluations, and to the assessment of revenue-free estates and rent-free lands not previously assessed. The decrease in the number of rent-free lands was generally due to their amalgamation with estates or tenures to which they are attached.

Gross rental.

546. The gross rental shows an increase from Rs. 17,84,20,533 in 1903-04 to Rs. 18,12,99,084, or of Rs. 28,78,551, which was chiefly due to valuations and revaluations. Subsequently the districts of Khulna and Palamau were created, and the Cess Act IX (B.C.) of 1880 was extended to them and to parganas Dhalbhum and Porahat in Singhbhum. In the Sonthal Parganas, in which the Act is being gradually introduced, the valuation of some recently resettled estates was completed and given effect to from the beginning of the current financial year.

Municipal Revenue.

See Chapter III—"Municipal Administration."

CHAPTER VI.—VITAL STATISTICS AND MEDICAL SERVICE.

Vital Statistics.

[Report of the Sanitary Commissioner, Bengal, for the year 1904; Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India, Section XIII.]

Climatic conditions.

547. Although the rainfall of the year was above the average, it was not well distributed, and the monsoon rains ceased much sooner than usual. This rendered the last quarter of the year very unhealthy. The prices of food-grains were on the whole lower than in the previous year.

Births and deaths.

548. The number of births registered was the highest on record, viz., 3,170,440, or 42·6 per thousand of the population of the Province according to the last Census, excluding two small tracts where vital occurrences are not yet registered. The increase, as compared with 1903, is attributed by the Sanitary Commissioner to the circumstance that the latter year was more healthy than 1902 and, in particular, that malaria was much less prevalent. This explanation may be accepted as accounting for the greater part of the increase. Some small portion of it may perhaps be due to the progressive improvement in registration, but the reporting of births and deaths has now reached such a degree of accuracy that this factor has become of comparatively small account.

The total number of deaths reported was 2,415,423, or 32·4 per mille compared with 33·3 per mille in 1903 and 33·4 in 1902. The diminution occurred chiefly under the head of cholera. The healthiest Division was Chota Nagpur with a death-rate of only 22·9 per mille. In the Burdwan, Orissa and Chittagong Divisions it was under 30; but in the Rajshahi, Patna and Presidency Divisions it exceeded 35 per mille. The vital statistics of towns will be dealt with in the Resolution on Municipal Administration. In discussing the seasonal incidence of mortality, the Sanitary Commissioner points out that the conditions of the different sub-Provinces are far from uniform. In Bengal Proper, the healthiest months are June and July; in Bihar and Chota Nagpur, January and February; and in Orissa, September and October.

Infant Mortality.

549. There was a further reduction in the rate of infant mortality, which was 187 per thousand births. This figure is still 55 per mille above the average of England and Wales, but it is not very much in excess of that in some of the mining and manufacturing counties. The Sanitary Commissioner summarizes in his report the result of the enquiries instituted by his predecessor regarding the causes of death among infants under one year of age. He considers that the bulk of the deaths result from illnesses due to improper food, insufficient clothing and other causes arising from the ignorance of the parents. The influence of malaria is also well marked; and while in some of the healthier districts, such as Singhbhum, Manbhum and the Sonthal Parganas, the infantile mortality is as low as, or lower than, the mean for England and Wales, in unhealthy districts like Jalpaiguri and Dinajpur it is from 30 to 40 per cent. above the Provincial average. The returns show that about 105 males are born to every 100 females; but the mortality amongst male infants is so much greater than amongst female, that about half of this excess has already disappeared by the end of the first year of life. These results have their counterpart in Europe, but there the greater relative vitality of female infants is even more marked than it is in this country, where sons are so highly prized and are often more carefully tended than daughters.

Cholera.

550. The mortality from cholera was barely two-thirds that of 1903. The number of deaths registered was 137,701, or 1·85 per mille. In Bengal Proper cholera was more prevalent, especially in the eastern districts; but elsewhere there was a general improvement. This was most noticeable in the Patna Division, which had suffered severely in 1903, when the death-rates recorded in the Champaran and Shahabad districts were, respectively, 7·7 and

6·1 per mille. In no district has the mortality during 1904 approached these figures. The comparative immunity of Puri is highly satisfactory and may perhaps be attributed to improved sanitary arrangements, especially as regards the water-supply. Only once in the last 20 years has Puri been so free from this disease as in 1904. Anti-cholera inoculation of coolies emigrating to Assam has recently been discontinued at the instance of the Chief Commissioner of that Province, who considered that the measure had not been of material effect in warding off the disease, while it tended to make emigration to Assam unpopular.

Small-pox.

551. After three years of unusual prevalence there was a fall in the mortality from small-pox, which, in the Province as a whole, was only 0·23 per mille. The death-rate from this cause was highest in Jalpaiguri, where it was six times the Provincial average, while two of the three districts of Orissa, which usually suffer most, enjoyed comparative immunity.

Fever.

552. No less than 1,655,198 deaths, or more than two-thirds of the total number, are attributed to "fever." The reporting agency is notoriously unfit to form an accurate diagnosis, and all but a few well-known diseases, such as cholera and small-pox, are classed indiscriminately under this head. Some light is thrown on the extent to which this occurs by researches in Dinajpur, from which it appears that, out of 1,000 reported deaths from fever, enquiry showed that more than one-fifth were really due to pneumonia, one-tenth to diarrhœa, one-ninth to phthisis, one-sixteenth to dysentery and one-fifth to other causes; while less than one-third were attributable to malarial fever.

Sanitary improvement.

553. The prevalence of malaria is now known to depend largely on the amount of stagnant water, in *bils* and moribund rivers, which affords breeding-grounds for the anopheles mosquito. Government has recently sanctioned a project for draining an area of 290 square miles in the 24-Parganas, at an estimated cost of Rs. 17,39,000; and two similar schemes in the Rajshahi and Pabna districts are under preparation. Much, however, can be done by less ambitious measures, such as the filling up of hollows, the clearing of drains, and the treating of stagnant pools with kerosine oil. The report shows what action was taken in this direction during 1904. Attention was concentrated mainly on certain jails; and it is stated that the result was "an appreciable decrease in the incidence of fever in them." The Sanitary Commissioner is preparing a note for the guidance of Municipalities describing the most practical methods of warding off malaria.

Plague.

Plague.

554. The number of deaths from plague in Bengal in 1904 was 75,436 —the highest number recorded since the disease invaded the Province. Nearly three-quarters of the total mortality occurred in three districts—Patna, Shahabad and Saran—and more than one-third of it in Patna alone, where the plague death-rate stood at no less than 16 per mille. Outside eight districts of Bihar and the City of Calcutta, 545 deaths from plague were reported; but in those districts the disease seems to have established itself firmly, and it has spread since the close of the year to Howrah. The epidemic followed its usual course. It reached its climax in March, then rapidly declined until July, rose again in August, fell off in September and October, and once more rose steadily with the advent of the cold weather.

Calcutta.

555. In Calcutta, the number of cases and deaths was lower in the year under review than in any year since 1899. The total number of seizures was 4,995 and of deaths 4,689 against 8,890 and 8,222, respectively, in 1903; 7,781 and 7,278 in 1902; 8,611 and 7,883 in 1901, and 8,822 and 8,278 in 1900. The "active" or "outbreak" period of the disease did not commence until the first week of February, and lasted till the week ending 4th June. During these 18 weeks there were 4,642 cases and 4,354 deaths. The highest mortality occurred in April, the climax being reached in the week ending 2nd April, in which there were 544 deaths against 960 deaths in the corresponding week of the previous year. In September the number of cases fell to 8—the lowest number reported in any month since February 1899. The operations of the Plague Department

caused no excitement or agitation. Steady progress was made with the demolition of huts which it had been found impossible to disinfect thoroughly and which had been repeatedly visited by the disease. The upper middle-class people are pleased at the removal from their neighbourhood of insanitary *bustis*, which they regard as a sanitary danger to themselves. Orders were issued during the year sanctioning the employment of additional staff for the purpose of investigating every death, instead of merely suspicious cases, and making more searching enquiries for living cases.

Interior.

556. Outside Calcutta 15 districts were infected, the total plague mortality in them being 70,727 against 57,457 in 1903 and 25,156 in 1902. The heaviest sufferers were—Patna (26,010 deaths), Saran (17,392), Shahabad (10,484), Gaya (6,929), Monghyr (3,372), Muzaffarpur (2,938), Bhagalpur (1,865) and Darbhanga (1,212). All these districts remained infected throughout the year except Bhagalpur, which enjoyed immunity from May to August. The preventive measures consisted chiefly of disinfection and the evacuation of infected houses. Inoculation is still viewed with suspicion and makes but little progress. Rat destruction is now recognised as of great value, and it has been urged upon the Municipal authorities of Patna and other towns where plague has taken a firm hold. The measures to be adopted for dealing with plague were considered in October 1904 at a Conference, convened by the Lieutenant-Governor for the purpose, and the existing orders on the subject were passed in review. On the advice of this Conference, the penal provisions of the plague regulations which had been issued under the Epidemic Diseases Act were abrogated; revised instructions were drawn up, in which special emphasis was laid on the absolute importance of working with the people and of avoiding the least appearance of interfering with their rooted prejudices; and funds were placed at the disposal of Commissioners for expenditure on plague prevention and relief.

Observation Camps.

557. As in the preceding year, there was only one observation camp on the lines of rail, viz., at Siliguri. During 1904, 71,575 persons were examined by the Inspecting Medical Officer, and of these only three were detained. The detained persons were found to be suffering from other causes and were discharged cured.

Plague precautions in Ports.

558. An important change was made in the rules for the examination of vessels leaving the Port of Calcutta. In order to ensure that no vessel should leave port without a Bill of Health, Rule 7 prescribed the production of a Bill of Health, or a guarantee for its production, before port-clearance was given. The Committee appointed to consider the procedure of the Calcutta Custom House recommended that this rule might be abolished, since in their own interests no Captains would think of leaving the port without a Bill of Health. The rule in question was accordingly cancelled with the previous sanction of the Government of India, a condition being added that Pilots should be prohibited from taking vessels out to sea from Calcutta until a Bill of Health, duly signed by the Health Officer of the Port, has been produced before them.

No case of plague was detected among the crew or passengers of out-going vessels or of vessels arriving from infected ports.

Emigration.

COLONIAL EMIGRATION.

[Report on Emigration from the Port of Calcutta to British and Foreign Colonies in the year 1904; Financial and Commercial Statistics of British India—Section XXXV—Emigration.]

Administrative Measures.

559. The most important administrative measures of the year 1904 were (*a*) the passing of an amending Act (XII of 1904) to provide for the levy of fees under section 108, and the extension of the application of Chapter XIV of the Indian Emigration Act, 1883 (XXI of 1883), and (*b*) the incorporation in the statutory rules of special provisions calculated to prevent the spread of tuberculosis among emigrants during voyages on boardship.

Requisition and despatch of Labour.

560. Six emigration agencies were at work during the year, of which five represented British Colonies. The total number of emigrants registered was 10,286. As in previous years, recruitment was most active in the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh, from which 72·92 per cent. of the emigrants

came, the districts furnishing the largest number being Fyzabad and Basti. Of the persons admitted into sub-depôts, 1,213 were rejected on the spot as unfit. The number of these rejections was thus larger than in the previous year; and this probably indicates that greater care is being exercised in medical inspection in the districts. Eight thousand seven hundred and thirty-four persons were admitted to the Calcutta depôts. This number was further reduced by the rejection of 648 as unfit, by desertion, by transfer to other agencies, by release, and in other ways, to 7,451, of whom 7,135 were shipped during the year and 316 were left in the depôts for subsequent despatch. These figures show a decided falling off as compared with the figures for 1903, when 11,161 persons were accommodated in the Calcutta depôts, and 9,084 were actually embarked for the Colonies.

Demand for Labour.

561. The demand for labour also decreased, only 7,501 emigrants being requisitioned as against 9,893 in the previous year. The supply is shown as 6,901; but, if the 1,030 emigrants who were supplied in 1904 to meet the requisitions of 1903 be deducted from this figure, the result is a total deficit of 1,630, as against the deficit of 1,099 shown for the preceding year. This further shortage is attributed to the prevalence of plague, the good harvests of the two previous years, and the increased demand for local labour. The Colonies which received the largest number of emigrants were Natal (1,638) and Mauritius (1,404.) No labour was demanded by or supplied to Jamaica.

Emigration Fund.

562. The decrease in the number of emigrants has produced a corresponding effect on the Emigration Fund. In 1903, this fund showed receipts of Rs. 31,189, an expenditure of Rs. 25,862, and a closing balance of Rs. 5,327. The receipts during the year 1904 were Rs. 19,590 and the expenditure was Rs. 29,451. The balance has thus been converted into a deficit of Rs. 9,860, due to the falling off by Rs. 10,041 in the fees realised for emigrants embarked.

Returned immigrants and their savings.

563. During the year 4,377 immigrants left the Colonies and returned to India, bringing with them savings amounting in the aggregate to Rs. 7,64,327, or, on an average, to Rs. 174 a head, as compared with Rs. 166 returned for the year immediately preceding. Only 691 adults (*i.e.*, 15·78 of the total) are said to have returned without any accumulations.

EMIGRATION TO BURMA.

564. The number of State emigrants carried from Bihar to Burma during the year under report was 427 (340 adults and 87 children) against 457 in the previous year.

The emigrants are carried to Burma at reduced rates by the British India Steam Navigation Company and one-third of the passage-money is paid in equal shares by the Governments of Bengal and Burma.

Inland Emigration.

[The reports on Inland Emigration for the year ending the 30th June 1905, submitted by the Superintendents of Emigration, Calcutta, the Sonthal Parganas, Hazaribagh, Ranchi, Palamau, Manbhum and Singhbhum, and by the Travelling Superintendent of Emigration for Lower Bengal and the Central Provinces.]

Administration.

565. Several amendments in the rules under Act VI of 1901 were made during the year under review, with the object of modifying the depôt and transit regulations so as to render emigration to Assam less unpopular. It was represented by the Hon'ble the Chief Commissioner that the rules which provided for supplying emigrants with cooked meals acted as a distinct obstacle to recruitment, and he urged that uncooked food should be offered and facilities given to the emigrants for cooking it themselves. The Lieutenant-Governor consulted the officers of the recruiting districts, and from their replies it appeared that the objection was well founded. Rules were accordingly introduced to give effect to the suggestions of the Assam Administration. It was further brought to notice that the rules relating to the clothing, housing and transport of emigrants, which were suitable for persons recruited by contractors under Chapter III of the Act, were not only unnecessary in the case of *sardari* emigrants, but tended to make their recruitment difficult. These rules were accordingly declared inapplicable in most cases to emigrants

recruited under Chapter IV and sections 90 and 91 of Chapter V. Anti-cholera inoculation, which had never been compulsory, was found to have acted as a deterrent to emigration, while it had not produced any marked effect in preventing epidemics. With the concurrence of the Assam Administration, it was abolished during the year. Rule 116 provided that emigrants on transit should be halted for eight hours at Naihati. It was suggested that, if this rule were modified, a through train could be run from Asansol to Goalundo, and the journey to Assam appreciably shortened. The East Indian Railway accepted the proposal, and the rules were modified so as to substitute a halt at Asansol for that at Naihati. The opening of a railway line through Palamau rendered it easier for emigrants from that district to be taken to Daltonganj for registration. Sanction was accordingly given to the separation of the districts of Ranchi and Palamau for emigration purposes.

In the Resolution recorded on last year's reports, a reference was made to an abuse which had sprung up in the district of Manbhum of smuggling intending emigrants from that district into adjoining districts in respect of which prohibitive notifications under section 3 of the Act had not been issued, and of despatching them to Assam in accordance with the procedure allowed by section 92. The reports under review indicate that this abuse still continues. The result of measures taken to repress the smuggling of emigrants to Raniganj was that the number of prosecutions for fraudulent recruitment in the Sonthal Parganas rose from 11 to 24. The Deputy Commissioner of Manbhum states that the feature of the year was the spread of illicit recruitment in the protected areas with the extension of the free depôt system in the contiguous districts. While the Travelling Superintendent of Emigration expresses the opinion that the practice is not so extensive now as formerly, there can be no doubt that persons are taken from notified districts to depôts situated in places outside these areas for despatch as free emigrants, and that in some cases they are passed through as being natives of Tributary States. Various suggestions for stopping this practice were under consideration during the year. The most drastic remedy suggested was that prohibitive notifications under section 3 should be issued in respect of the districts adjoining Chota Nagpur, but, as it was thought that this would act as an undue restraint upon recruitment, the proposal was not sanctioned. On the advice of the Superintendent of Emigration, Calcutta, a rule was framed prescribing that a register should be kept of all persons recruited under section 92, giving details from which they could be traced and laying down that no emigrants should be despatched from places of accommodation until the register had been inspected by an officer of the Government. The Lieutenant-Governor trusts that this will help to check the abuse.

Inland Labour Transport Fund.

566. The unsatisfactory condition of the Inland Labour Transport Fund rendered the reduction of establishments imperative. It was proposed by this Government that the post of Travelling Superintendent of Emigration should be abolished, but the Government of India directed that it should be maintained during the months in which emigration was active. The period of the appointment was, at the instance of the Chief Commissioner of the Central Provinces, eventually extended to nine months. The absence of cholera outbreaks at Chandpur, Naihati and Asansol rendered it possible to abolish altogether the cholera hospital at Chandpur and to reduce the establishments at Naihati and Asansol. The cholera hospital at Madhupur, being no longer required, was also abolished.

Number of Emigrants.

567. Twenty-four thousand three hundred and eighty-four emigrants were despatched to the labour districts as against 22,322 in the previous year. Of these, 3,150, or 13 per cent., were recruited by licensed recruiters under Chapter III of the Act, 8,108, or 33·2 per cent., by garden *sardars* working under Chapter IV, 731, or 3 per cent., by specially employed *sardars* working under sections 90 and 91, and 12,395, or 50·8 per cent., under the provisions of section 92. The increase in the total number of emigrants does not call for notice, but there is a remarkable variation in the numbers recruited under the different methods authorized by the law. The figures of recruitment under Chapter III are less than half of what they were in the preceding year, while the number of persons recruited under section 92 is almost double. The decrease under

the former head is attributed partly to a smaller demand for labour from licensed contractors, but it must obviously have been due principally to competition with free labour agents working under section 92. Recruitment under Chapter III in the Sonthal Parganas and Chota Nagpur is very limited, and in the latter Division the contractors did little or nothing except in Manbhum, and even there the number of their recruiters is yearly becoming smaller. The chief centres of recruitment under section 92 are Raniganj, Midnapore, Kharagpur and Cuttack. Recruitment by garden *sardars* was somewhat more active than in the previous year, especially in the Sonthal Parganas and in the Chota Nagpur Division, where 5,344 emigrants were recruited as against 4,330. The increased activity in recruitment was most noticeable in Hazaribagh, where it is attributed to bad harvests.

Immigration.

568. The immigration of Sonthals and other aborigines into Hooghly and Burdwan for cultivation, for work on the brick-fields and for coal-mines continued Nearly half the artisans in the jute mills belong to the districts of Bihar and the eastern part of the United Provinces and Orissa. No labourers in the district of Birbhum left the district or worked elsewhere. There was no immigration into Bankura. In the Sundarbans tracts labourers from Orissa, Midnapore, Chota Nagpur and Sonthal Parganas immigrated largely: some of them came with the object of settling permanently, others merely for temporary work during the harvest season. With the increase of new mills in the Barrackpore subdivision, the population of immigrants from Bihar and the United Provinces increased rapidly. The immigration of coolies from Chota Nagpur, Sonthal Parganas and Nepal to work on tea-gardens in the Duars and Darjeeling took place as usual. The Tibet Mission led to the importation of a number of foreigners for employment on transport and road work. Permanent immigration of Sonthal and Bunas into Dinajpur, Jalpaiguri and Rajshahi took place to some extent when these immigrants settled down and became regular cultivators. In the Dacca Division there was the usual influx of up-country labourers to work at the jute presses during the rains and for earthwork during the cold weather. There was also the annual influx of labourers from the neighbouring districts into Backergunge during the *aman* harvesting season. Labourers came to Tippera from Chittagong and Noakhali and also from Bihar districts. In the Sonthal Parganas, there was an increase in immigration at the end of the year. In the Orissa Division the inter-district flow of labourers in search of employment also continued as before. In the Chota Nagpur Division there was no immigration, save of those who came to work in the mines or on the railways.

Medical Institutions.

[The Triennial Report on the working of the Charitable Dispensaries in Bengal and the Calcutta Medical Institutions for the years 1902, 1903 and 1904 Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India, Section XIV.]

General.

569. One of the most important administrative reforms which have been carried out is the greater financial independence which has been given to the Managing Committees of Municipal Dispensaries. In former years, when the subscriptions to dispensaries were merged in the Municipal Fund, private liberality was discouraged by the apprehension that increased contributions would merely result in a diminution of the Municipal expenditure. The accounts of the Dispensary Committees have therefore been separated, as far as possible, from those of the Municipalities. Improved arrangements have been made for training the Police in ambulance work and first aid to the injured, and the system promises to give satisfactory results. The rules governing the examinations of Hospital Assistants have been revised. The pay of compounders has been increased in certain cases. The civil drug stores have been abolished, and money grants are now given in lieu of medicines for Government servants. Short courses of lectures on tuberculosis and malaria have been introduced in all the colleges and in many of the more advanced schools.

CALCUTTA MEDICAL INSTITUTIONS.

Institutions Accommodation and Attendance.

570. Much has been done recently to modernize the leading medical institutions in Calcutta. The reconstruction and renovation of the Presidency General Hospital has been practically completed, with the exception of a ward for paying patients and an administrative block which will shortly be constructed. Proposals for the establishment at Puri of a Convalescent Home in connection with this hospital are under consideration. At the Medical College Hospital important additions are being made, including a new surgical wing and quarters for the nursing staff. The reconstruction of the antiquated Campbell Hospital has been commenced; and a large scheme for the remodelling and improvement of the Howrah General Hospital has been sanctioned. At the same time, as stated by the Inspector-General, the standard of efficiency in the principal hospitals has been substantially raised; and this improvement has been largly due to the energy and zeal of the Medical Officers who have been in charge.

The aggregate number of beds provided in the Calcutta hospitals is 1,778. On the average, only three-quarters of the total number were occupied in 1904, but the margin must have been very small during the unhealthy months. The total number of indoor patients fell from 29,063 in the first to 26,554 in the last year of the triennial period. The first of these years was very unhealthy; but for a long time past, in spite of the rapid growth of the population of Calcutta, the number of indoor patients has shown no tendency to expand. There has been a rise in the number of women and children admitted to hospital, but that of men was actually less in 1904 than it was 12 years earlier. The outdoor attendance, however, shows a steady increase, and the average yearly number of out-patients during the triennium was 267,776 against 241,576 during the previous three years. Here also the improvement is most marked in the case of females; and the number of women treated has risen by 59 per cent, since 1892, while in the case of men the increase is 16 per cent. only. This is attributed by the Inspector-General to the measures which have been taken in recent years to secure greater privacy for female patients. Of the various institutions the greatest progress is shown by the Sambhu Nath Pandit Hospital, where the number of in-patients has risen from 3,191 in the previous triennium to 4,209 in the three years under review, and the number of out-patients from 53,734 to 62,581. The total number of patients treated there is two and-a-half times as great as it was fifteen years ago.

Income.

571. The income of the Calcutta hospitals in 1904 was Rs. 13,67,400, of which about three-quarters was contributed by Government. This figure includes capital expenditure on buildings, which has been unusually large for several years past. The receipts from paying patients (Rs. 92,877) were the highest on record. Private subscriptions amounted to Rs. 48,689 in 1904, as compared with Rs. 15,773 in 1903, but the former sum includes two large legacies aggregating Rs. 34,101. The amount contributed by private liberality towards the ordinary expenditure of the hospitals is deplorably small; and the receipts under this head in 1903 were actually less than they were twenty years previously.

CHARITABLE DISPENSARIES OUTSIDE CALCUTTA.

Number of Institutions and Attendance.

572. Owing to the changes made in the classification of dispensaries, it is difficult to compare in detail the figures of 1904 with those of previous years. Some interesting general results may, however, be noted. Between 1883 and 1903 the number of hospitals under State supervision (excluding Private, Railway, Police and Female Hospitals) rose from 223 to 581, and the number of beds from 2,059 to 3,714. During the same period of twenty years the number of indoor patients rose from 22,468 to 49,166, and that of outdoor patients from 915,753 to 4,295,859. The number of operations performed increased nearly fourfold. On the financial side the results are equally satisfactory. The income of the dispensaries from all sources has risen from Rs. 4,51,751 to Rs. 16,03,354, and the amount raised by private subscriptions from Rs. 1,33,758 to Rs. 5,03,115.

573. In spite of the progress that has been made much remains to be done, and the Bengal dispensaries still serve a larger population than is the case in some of the other Provinces. There is, however, in this Province a large number of private practitioners, who are to be found in all important villages; and these, to some extent at least, compensate for the comparatively small number of public institutions. The net increase in the number of dispensaries during the last three years is only 66, or the same as in the previous triennium. The District Boards have hitherto been hampered by want of funds; but now that their resources have been increased by a grant equivalent to 25 per cent. of their income from the road cess, this difficulty will no longer be felt, and it is expected that they will considerably augment their expenditure on medical relief. The question of laying down rules as to the amount of local support which should be required before new dispensaries are opened is under the consideration of Government. Efforts have been made in some districts to supplement the medical relief afforded by the dispensaries by the supply of medicine chests to village headmen, the deputation of Medical Officers to visit outlying market centres and in Faridpur by the institution of a floating dispensary. The first of these measures has not been attended with much success, but the system of visiting markets is favourably reported on and should be more largely resorted to.

Accommodation.

574. The number of beds available for indoor patients has risen from 4,882 in 1902 to 5,502 in 1904, and the total number of indoor patients from 66,810 to 69,283. Owing to instructions issued by the Inspector-General, the proportion of patients paying for their diet in the public hospitals rose from 8·7 per cent. in 1903 to 13·9 per cent. in 1904. The rate of mortality amongst indoor patients fell from 10·5 per cent. in 1902 to 8·5 per cent. in 1904. The heaviest mortality is recorded in the hospitals situated on the main lines of pilgrim traffic. The number of outdoor patients is growing rapidly, the average number for the triennium being 4,970,999 against 3,650,152 in the previous three years. This is due partly to the opening of new dispensaries, but also, to a large extent, to the increased efficiency and popularity of the existing institutions. As in the case of the Calcutta hospitals, a satisfactory feature of the returns is the rapid increase in the number of female patients, which in 1904 considerably exceeded a million. This is due largely to the provision in the majority of the hospitals of separate female examination and waiting-rooms.

Buildings and Repairs.

575. During the last two years, $5\frac{3}{4}$ lakhs have been spent on buildings and repairs, and many improvements have been effected; but a large number of the existing buildings are still unsatisfactory, and require almost complete renovation. Instructions have been issued to District Boards to devote to this purpose a part of the funds recently placed at their disposal. The surgical equipment of the hospitals has of late received much attention, and the Lieutenant-Governor is glad to hear that the Government grant of Rs. 25,000, which was made for this purpose in 1904, has been supplemented by considerable sums raised locally. The supply of medicines is still in many cases very inadequate, but the Lieutenant-Governor observes, with satisfaction, that much more quinine is being used than was the case a few years ago.

Malarial Fever.

576. Malarial fever was as usual the most frequent cause of attendance, and accounted for one-fifth of the total number of cases treated. Although the vital satistics show a diminution in the number of deaths from this cause in 1904, there was an increase in the number of cases treated both in the public dispensaries and in Police hospitals. In connection with the latter, the Inspector-General draws attention to the good results produced by the regular administration of prophylactic doses of quinine to prisoners and lunatics, and suggests that this practice should be followed in tne case of the Police. The attention of the Inspector-General of Police will be drawn to his remarks on this subject. The surgical record of the year was an excellent one, and in all 209,043 operations were performed. There were no less than 2,600 operations for cataract in the year 1904, or more than the aggregate number performed in the decade ending in 1891: in five cases out of six the operations were successful.

Financial results of the year.

577. The financial results of the year were, on the whole, satisfactory. There was a large increase in private subscriptions, which furnished a quarter of the total receipts, and a smaller one in the contributions by District

Boards. On the other hand the expenditure of Municipalities on medical relief in 1904 was less than it had been for several years past.

Eden Sanitarium, Darjeeling.

[Report on the working of the Eden Sanitarium and Hospital for the year 1904.]

578. The total number of admissions was 459, of whom 321 were patients and 138 their relatives and friends. These numbers show a slight reduction as compared with the admissions in 1903. This may have been due to accidental circumstances; but for several years there has been a distinct, though not strong, tendency to decrease. It may be due to the competition of other hill stations now accessible by rail. The number of persons operated on was 30, of whom 27 were cured, 2 were relieved and 1 died. Number of admissions.

579. Owing to the diminution in the number of patients, especially in the first class, there was a decrease of Rs. 7,042 in the income and of Rs. 4,676 in the expenditure. The year's working shows a surplus of Rs. 1,097, as compared with Rs. 3,464 during the preceding year. Some much-needed improvements in the buildings have recently been carried out. Of these the most important was the renovation of the kitchen and attached buildings at a cost of Rs. 8,837, the greater part of which was met by Government. An X-ray apparatus has been procured, and the obstetric ward has been improved at a cost of Rs. 1,200. Sanction has been given to the construction of nurses' quarters at a cost of Rs. 6,340. Much still remains to be done to place the institution in a thoroughly satisfactory condition, but there is very little money available. The income from subscriptions has steadily dwindled from Rs. 2,485 in 1886 to Rs. 350 in the year under review. There is no improvement in this respect as compared with last year. Funds.

Lunatic Asylums.

[Annual Returns of the Lunatic Asylums in Bengal for the year 1904. Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India, Section XV.]

580. The daily average population of the asylums in 1904 was higher than in any year since 1891, while the admissions during the year and the number under detention at its close were the highest on record. The total number of lunatics in the asylums is less than 5 per cent. of the persons returned as of unsound mind at the last Census, and there are often marked differences in the number of admissions from adjoining districts. In 1904, for instance, 53 lunatics were sent to an asylum from Calcutta and 37 from the 24-Parganas, but only two from Nadia and one from Jessore; 19 were sent from Dacca and 10 from Backergunge, but only two from Mymensingh and none at all from Tippera. Such variations must, to some extent at least, be due to the idiosyncracies of the officers having authority to order detention in an asylum. The number of admissions fell suddenly about 1891, when it was laid down that, apart from criminal lunatics, only those persons should be confined in asylums who are regarded as dangerous or who are in such a state of destitution that their admission is demanded by common humanity; but during the last four years it has again risen steadily. This may be due to the fact that the standing orders on the subject have in some districts been overlooked, and attention will again be drawn to them. Population.

581. The number of lunatics in asylums is affected not only by the number of admissions but also by the time for which they are detained, and the Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals expresses a doubt whether, in the case of criminal lunatics, the orders of Government enjoining the release of harmless lunatics convicted of trivial offences have been strictly observed. He has already drawn the attention of Superintendents to this matter.

582. The mean death-rate was 92 per mille in 1904, against 100 in the previous year. There are great differences in the figures for the different institutions; and whereas in the Dacca and Berhampore Asylums the death-rate was 67 per mille, at Dullunda it was no less than 128. In considering these figures, it must be remembered that the inmates of an asylum are comparable with patients in a hospital rather than with prisoners in a jail. Most of them suffer from some form or another of organic disease, such as tubercle or Death-rate.

dysentery, and their condition is often serious before they reach the asylum. This was especially the case during the year under review at the Dullunda Asylum, where no less than nine of the new admissions were found to be suffering from phthisis. The death-rate of the asylums in England in 1903 was 104 per mille, or 12 more than the rate now reported for Bengal.

Scheme for a Central Asylum.

583. Some progress has been made during the year in the scheme for a Central Aslyum for native lunatics, where they may be under the continuous care of a highly-trained specialist. Proposals for a similar reform in the case of European lunatics are now before the Government of India. The urgent necessity for this reform was pointed out in the Resolution on the returns for 1903.

Sanitation.

[Report of the Sanitary Commissioner, Bengal, for 1904-1905.]

Sanitary improvements.

584. Mention has already been made of three important drainage schemes which will shortly be carried out, and of the measures taken in certain places to get rid of mosquitoes. The Sanitary Commissioner also enumerates some other important works which were carried out during the year. Much was done towards improving the water-supply by the construction of new tanks and wells and the cleansing of old ones. Progress was also made in improving the conservancy arrangements in towns; but the difficulties connected with the installation of septic tanks, which were mentioned in the Resolution on the Report for 1903, have not yet been wholly solved. An exhaustive enquiry was made by the Committee appointed to investigate the matter, and certain definite conclusions were arrived at; but a final settlement of the question must await the result of enquiries which are now being made for the purpose of ascertaining whether the effluent from the tanks can be bacteriologically purified by filtration through sand.

The Sanitary Board.

585. The report submitted by the Sanitary Board contains an account of the numerous water-supply and drainage projects which have engaged their attention during the year. To the former class belong the schemes for water-supply at Puri, Pabna, Khulna and Barisal. But the most interesting feature of the report is the evidence which it gives of the activity displayed by many Municipalities in Bengal in the preparation of drainage schemes. Reference is made to no fewer than fourteen such schemes; and many others are in contemplation. When these projects have been finally prepared and approved, they will be carried out gradually as funds are available; and in this way it will be possible to insure that the Municipal money is expended to the best advantage. The detailed plans and estimates for the drainage of Puri and several other towns were prepared by an Assistant Engineer of the Public Works Department; but his services were available only for a limited time, and much still remains to be done. It is most important that these projects should be drawn up under closer expert supervision than the Sanitary Engineer has time to devote to them, and it has recently been proposed to give him an assistant for this purpose.

Drainage.

586. Proper surface drainage of towns is one of the most important matters in Bengal. In other parts of India with small rainfall and low level of subsoil water it is of comparatively secondary importance. But in this Province it comes first in the list of sanitary needs. Malaria, dysentery, diarrhœa and polluted water-supply are the results of neglect of this part of our sanitary programme. It is useless to try to reduce the malaria in a town until the drainage is put in decent order. After heavy rain it is quite hopeless to try and render puddles unsuitable for mosquitoes to breed in. But it is possible by a system of drains to prevent the puddles remaining for any length of time. The usual *kutcha* drain for Lower Bengal is very unsatisfactory. This kind of drain is a failure in a Province where the soil is so fertile and so damp. A *kutcha* drain should be dry for the greater part of the year and should only carry off storm-water. If they remain full for long periods, they become choked with vegetation and form most suitable breeding-places for anopheles. Further, they require a great deal of attention to keep the level correct. For rural areas and scattered Municipalities masonry drains cannot be put in everywhere on account of the expense. But in bazars shallow saucer drains of

brick should always be provided whenever possible, as they require very little attention and, if laid well, last a long time. The idea that all poor Municipalities must be content with *kutcha* drains and that they are satisfactory is wrong, and one that is to be deprecated.

587. There is still one more point which is worthy of mention, and that is the praiseworthy endeavour that some Municipalities—Bhatpara, Tittaghur, Maniktala and Garden Reach—are making in the direction of improving insanitary *bustis*. Roads are being cut through them, tanks filled up, and insanitary latrines demolished. Use is made of section 245 of the Bengal Municipal Act on the recommendation of two medical officers. Houses are removed to open up the overcrowded parts so as to enable carts to enter and clean up the place. This with the introduction of building bye-laws can in a few years make a great improvement in the sanitation of *bustis*. The procedure is one that is to be recommended to the careful consideration of all Municipalities, as it involves comparatively little outlay of money and shows gratifying results. Insanitary bustis.

Vaccination.

[Triennial Report on Vaccination in Bengal for the years 1902-1903, 1903-1904, and 1904-1905; Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India, Section XVI.]

588. The number of vaccinators has remained almost unchanged since 1888, but each man now performs on the average 50 per cent. more operations than he did at that time. The improvement in this respect has been continuous. The average number of operations performed in each year of the triennium under review was 2,809,506, or 978 per vaccinator, as compared with 2,420,552, or 834 per vaccinator, during the previous three years. Less than 5 per cent. of the total number of operations consist of re-vaccinations. According to the returns, nearly two-fifths of the total infant population of the Province was vaccinated in 1904-1905. The improvement which has taken place in the period under review is confined to rural areas. There has been a falling off in Municipalities, especially in Calcutta, where only one-quarter of the infant population was protected by vaccination in 1904-1905. This is most unsatisfactory, and the Sanitary Commissioner should give the matter his close personal attention during the coming season. Number of Vaccinators.

589. There are marked variations in the amount of work done in different parts of the Province. In the Dacca and Chittagong Divisions there were, respectively, 48 and 46 vaccinations per mille of the population in 1904-1905; in the Burdwan, Bhagalpur, Orissa and Chota Nagpur Divisions the number ranged from 36 to 38; while in the Presidency Division it was only 32, in Rajshahi 30 and in Patna 27 per mille. Of individual districts, the best results were obtained in Faridpur and Darjeeling (63 and 62 per mille, respectively); and the worst in Patna, Saran and Shahabad (from 21 to 22 per mille). There is no correlation between the number of operations and the varying prevalence of small-pox; and the greatest success has been attained in the tracts which are least afflicted by that scourge. The Sanitary Commissioner is of opinion that an epidemic of small-pox leads to a larger number of vaccinations; but, although such a result might be anticipated, it is not borne out by the statistics, nor are the figures to be explained by the reputed attitude of the people towards vaccination. The Ferazis of East Bengal are said to be exceptionally hostile, but this is precisely the part of the Province where the greatest success has been attained. The backward state of the work in Shahabad is attributed to the character of the people; but it is almost equally backward in Patna, where the inhabitants are supposed to be less obstructive. Their work.

The question of making the vaccinating staff more efficient has recently engaged the attention of Government. Proposals for raising the status of the inspecting officers have been submitted to the Government of India, and a system of rewards to vaccinators has been introduced. A scheme for the better training of the vaccinators and inspecting staff and for the more extended use of calf-lymph is under consideration.

CHAPTER VII.—INSTRUCTION.

General System of Public Instruction.

See—

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION REPORT FOR 1901-1902, PART II, PAGES 306-314.

Education.

[Report on Public Instruction in Bengal for the year 1904-1905; Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India, Section, X.]

Primary education.

590. The statistics of primary education shew a falling off in the number of schools from 49,093 to 48,176, or 1·8 per cent., and in attendance from 1,391,997 to 1,356,733, or 2·5 per cent. This decrease is confined to lower primary schools, the upper primary schools having slightly increased in number. The falling off in attendance in lower primary schools is 3·3 per cent. and occurred in the Divisions of Burdwan, Rajshahi, Dacca, Chittagong and Bhagalpur. Various explanations have been suggested by the Divisional Inspectors, but none of them are altogether satisfactory. The failure of crops and the prevalence of disease have been mentioned, while two Inspectors have sought an explanation in the abolition of the public examinations. The policy, introduced witihn the last few years, of insisting on a certain degree of efficiency before putting a school on the aided or stipendiary list, has no doubt resulted in a considerable decrease in the number of schools and of boys attending them.

The question of establishing a special course of primary education for rural schools was under the consideration of the Government during the year; but as a result of the criticisms to which the original proposals of the first committee were subjected, the whole matter was after the close of the year referred to a second and larger committee, whose recommendations are now being worked out in detail by the Director of Public Instruction.

It is satisfactory to notice the steps taken to render the guru-training schools throughout the Province more popular and efficient by increasing the salaries both of pandits and of pupil-teachers in training at such schools. In connection with the observations of the Director of Public Instruction upon the necessity for the augmentation of the present staff of Sub-Inspectors and a general increase of the subordinate inspecting agency and the proposals to which he refers, an elaborate scheme for the addition of a number of Assistant Inspectors, Deputy Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors, including guru instructors, has been submitted to the Government of India.

Effect has been given to the principle laid down by the Government of India that no school final examinations should in any case be required or allowed in the case of pupils who are not leaving school, and public examinations during or at the end of the primary school course have been abolished together with the printed certificate to which hitherto importance has apparently been attached. Objections have been raised in some quarters to this change as affecting the attendance at schools; but the Lieutenant-Governor is convinced that the reform is a most necessary and beneficial one, and His Honour trusts that the objections will be found to be transitory. Simultaneously with, and as a consequence of, this change, the method of awarding scholarships has been altered into a combination of selection and competition, the lower primary school examination being mainly *vivâ voce*; it has thus become possible to judge of the circumstances and intelligence of the candidates more accurately than was formerly the case.

591. While the number of secondary schools increased by 12 and that of pupils studying the high school course by 856, there was a general falling off in attendance at secondary schools similar to that which occurred in the case of primary schools. This decrease, which amounted to 4,091, was most marked in the case of middle vernacular schools and is attributed to the conversion of those schools into middle English. It is observed by the Director that in many middle schools the majority of the pupils belong to the primary stages and that these schools would probably be more efficient as upper primary schools only. The public examination for middle schools was abolished, and scholarships were awarded by examination of selected candidates. Judged by the results of the Calcutta University Entrance examination the standard of teaching in high schools improved during the year. While the number of candidates decreased by 176, the number of passes rose by 128, the improvement being mostly found in the case of unaided schools. Nine collegiate schools, however, show less favourable results than in the preceding year. Secondary education.

It is satisfactory to notice that 10 B classes and 5 C classes attached to high schools were at work during the year; the former are elementary engineering or technical classes preparatory to the Civil Engineering College, which the scholars usually join; the latter are commercial or trade classes from which scholars enter the commercial classes in the Presidency College. The candidates from these classes were fewer in number than in the previous year, but the proportion passed was about the same as last year and better than in the year before that.

With a view to giving effect to the recommendations of the Simla Conference as to affording facilities for agricultural education, the Government in 1902 approved of a proposal to provide one or two secondary schools in each Inspector's circle with gardens, and in certain selected schools to open agricultural classes as an experimental measure. The elements of agriculture are now being taught in six schools.

While there are 4,163 teachers in high schools who are graduates or have passed the F.A. or Entrance examination or are trained vernacular masters, it is to be regretted that many (2,361) do not possess any of these qualifications. These figures indicate the urgent necessity for making more adequate arrangements for the training of teachers. It is satisfactory to notice, however, that there is a steady increase in the number of masters who are receiving training in first grade Government training schools.

592. There was a slight increase in the number of pupils attending the Arts Colleges. Of 3,238 candidates who appeared at the F.A. examination 1,013, or 31·9 per cent. passed. These figures contrast unfavourably with those of the preceding year, when the percentage of passes was 34·8. The number of students who appeared at the B.A. examination was 2,003, or 29 less than in 1903-1904, but the results of the examination shew a marked improvement. The percentage of success in Government Colleges was 33·5 against 19·7 in the preceding year, in aided colleges 28·0 against 19·8 and in unaided colleges 16·4 against 10·1. The number of candidates for the M.A. degree was 192 as against 200 in the previous year, and the percentage of passes among regular students shewed a falling off from 39·2 to 30·9 per cent. There was a marked improvement in the percentage of successes in the B.L. examination, which rose in institutions under public management from 15 to 37·8, and in those under private management from 23·3 to 41·7. Collegiate education.

The subject of commercial education was under consideration during the year. The commercial classes which were opened in the Presidency College in 1903 had not proved successful, and the Lieutenant-Governor referred the matter to a Committee on which the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, the Bengal National Chamber of Commerce and the Calcutta Trades Association, as well as the Education Department, were represented. As a result of their recommendations two courses of studies were prescribed, the one being a complete day course, including modern English and English correspondence, Arithmetic, Book-keeping, Shorthand-writing and Type-writing, Commercial History and Geography and a second language, and the other consisting of evening lectures on a number of optional subjects, such as Political Economy, Banking and Currency, Commercial and Industrial Law and Annuities and

Insurance, in addition to some of the subjects prescribed for the day course. Rules were framed regulating the admission to these classes and to the examination for the Commercial certificate. The evening classes were opened in March and the day classes in June. They appear likely to become very popular and successful, the number of students which stood at 9 on the 31st March having risen to about 120 at the beginning of the new session.

The most important fact in the history of collegiate education during the year is the commencement of the working of the new Universities Act. A new Senate of the University has been formed and the Director reports that committees were appointed and began the work of producing a new body of regulations. The subject of residential colleges has been occupying the Lieutenant-Governor's attention; a new college, largely residential, has been nearly completed at Dacca; the Patna College is being improved in this respect, and the scheme for a model college at Ranchi has been greatly advanced, liberal subscriptions having already been received and measures taken for the selection of a site and the acquisition of land. The Assistant Director of Public Instruction made an enquiry during the year into the condition of students' hostels and messes in Calcutta. His report shewed that the rules on the subject which had been issued in 1900 were completely ignored, and that the conditions under which the students lived were incompatible with discipline. He suggested various measures of reform, the main principle being that each college should have its own hostels and messes and that students of more than one college should not be allowed to reside together. The question was referred to a Committee which recommended that each college should have its own mess, each mess being strictly limited to the students of a single college; and while admitting it to be at present impracticable to apply the same principle to hostels, the committee hoped that hereafter the rule might be extended to them also. A further recommendation was that hostels not attached to colleges should be under the control of a committee with power to recognize hostels which they considered worthy of recognition. A special officer was appointed as Inspector of Students' Hostels and Messes and the Government accepted the financial responsibility for a scheme of hiring houses for students. An enquiry was also instituted as to the conditions under which students live in colleges in the interior.

Muhammadan education.

593. The number of Muhammadans attending schools or colleges decreased by 3·1 per cent. during the year, but the result of the University examinations shews an improvement. A scheme for the improvement of Muhammadan education in *maktabs* was sanctioned by the Government. It is proposed to open model *maktabs* in Calcutta and in the 12 districts where there is a large proportion of Muhammadans, and to appoint inspecting maulvis to organize the existing schools and to report on their claims to receive grants-in-aid. The complete introduction of the scheme, however, must be held in abeyance until the Local Self-Government Act is amended so as to allow of the transfer of funds by Government to District Boards for expenditure on *maktabs* and of the grant of aid by District Boards to these institutions.

Technical education.

594. The only college in the Province which imparts technical education is the Sibpur Civil Engineering College. The figures of attendance shew a slight falling off in all the departments of the school except the electrical, and the results of the examinations are distinctly worse than in the previous year. The percentages of passes for the B.E., F.E., Overseer and Sub-Overseer examinations all fell short of those reached in 1903-1904. The results of the F.E. examination are reported to have been deteriorating since 1902. The discipline of the college is not quite so satisfactory as usual. The attempts made to improve the health of the college did not meet with much success. All these facts are of interest in connection with the decision at which the Government has arrived to transfer the Engineering College to Ranchi, a change which, it is hoped, will have the effect of increasing its popularity and of improving the health and discipline of the students. The Bihar School of Engineering also shews a slight falling off in attendance, but there is a decided improvement in the Dacca School, where the numbers rose from 117 to 189. The Government School of Art shews satisfactory results on the Industrial Art side, but the work done on the Fine Art side was disappointing. While the students appear to have attained a fair proficiency in the usual

course of drawing and painting, they shewed a great lack of interest in higher artistic work. The scheme of the gallery which had been found to be misleading to Indian students was given up, and more than two-thirds of the collection of European pictures were sold. The gallery will now be an Art section of the Indian Museum, representing Indian art. It is hoped that this change will introduce a sounder principle into the school, and that it may result in a stimulus being given to the study of fine art.

Female education.

595. The statistics of female education offer a contrast to the general decrease in numbers which has been noted in the preceding paragraphs. The number of girls' schools increased by 4·9 per cent. and the attendance by 5·8 per cent., while the number of girls attending mixed schools shewed an increase of 4·8 per cent. The rate of progress is, it is true, slower than in the previous years, but the high percentage then shewn could hardly have been maintained.

European education.

596. One of the most interesting, but at the same time one of the most disappointing, sections of the report is that which deals with the subject of European education. Judged by the results of examinations there has been a distinct loss of efficiency. It appears that in the number of passes in the first division in the various examinations there was a remarkable falling off, and that, except in arithmetic, the work was mediocre or indifferent, the results in girls' schools being particularly bad. The Inspector of European Schools attributes this state of things partly to the poor prospects of the teaching profession which offers so little attraction that recruitment has become practically impossible, and partly to the unsatisfactory courses of studies in secondary schools. While History and Geography are neglected, an attempt is made to teach such subjects as Physiology, Physics and Political Economy, which, if they are to be studied profitably, require a sound basis of general education. The result is that the quality of the teaching is poor and the educational training largely valueless. The political consequences of such a state of things cannot be regarded with indifference; for, restricted as Europeans and Eurasians are in their choice of the means of livelihood, their educational fitness is a matter of great importance. It appears that even the Roman Catholic schools with their unpaid voluntary service of teachers are unable to do full justice to the task they have undertaken. The Inspector remarks that the Government grants are small, assessed as they were to meet educational standards which have now been left behind. He calculates, however, that the receipts from endowments amounted to a little more than a lakh and a quarter and the contributions from the general public probably to less than a lakh of rupees. The amount met from provincial revenues was Rs. 3,86,325 and from fees Rs. 6,87,264. In view of these figures and of the urgent claims of the other departments of education the provincial contribution cannot be regarded as disproportionately small.

Reformatory Schools.

[Annual Report on the Reformatory Schools at Alipore and Hazaribagh for the year 1904, Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India, Section XI.]

Number of boys admitted and released.

597. The number of boys admitted to the Reformatory Schools in 1904 was 101, this being the lowest figure recorded since 1899. It is reported that the lists of admissions were, in accordance with the instructions issued by the Government of Bengal in 1901, examined by the Boards of Management with a view to ascertaining whether any of the inmates might not have been better dealt with under section 31 of the Reformatory Schools Act, 1897, or section 562 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898, which provide for the discharge of youthful offenders after due admonition, or for their being set at liberty on probation or on security for good conduct being furnished by their parents or guardians. The result of this scrutiny was that 17 boys were released, as against 28 in the previous year. It is noticed with satisfaction that the provisions cited above are being more freely resorted to; for, as has been ascertained from the judicial returns for the year under review, 42 youthful offenders were dealt with under section 31 of the Act of 1897 and 365 under section 562 of the Code of 1898, the corresponding figures for 1903 having been 30 and 269, respectively.

Health, discipline and education.

598. The health of the boys in the Reformatories was on the whole good. The number of admissions to hospital in the Alipore institution showed a marked decrease, while the total for the two schools was 141 as against 173 in 1903. There was a distinct and satisfactory improvement in discipline, the number of punishments falling from 172 to 158, and the decrease being most marked in respect of cases in which confinement was ordered. Due attention has been directed to sports and amusements; and this is especially the case at Alipore, where a bugle-class has been formed and sanction was obtained for the creation of a school band.

Industries.

599. The training of the boys at Alipore is mainly industrial, and that at Hazaribagh agricultural. Of 148 boys who were under training in the Alipore school during the year, 138 were taught trades, while at Hazaribagh 82 out of 147 were taught agriculture. There has been during the last three years but little variation in the figures showing the occupations of the boys discharged. A considerable proportion, 69 out of 333, were untraced. Of the others, 70 out of 125, who had been taught agriculture, were found to be engaged in that occupation, in addition to 19 who had not been so trained. Only 52 out of 208 were following the trades which they had been taught, while 46 were engaged in other industries, 32 were unemployed, and 25 relapsed into crime and were reconvicted. The results of the training, if tested by the working of the licensing system, are, however, not very satisfactory. There has been a marked falling off in the number of boys licensed out during 1904, as compared with the preceding year, the figures being 75 as against 114. The decrease occurred chiefly in Hazaribagh, where the question has been under consideration, and the conclusion seems to have been arrived at that the conditions are not favourable for an extension of the system. An improvement is observed in the conduct of the boys licensed out from Alipore, and it appears that only 8 of these absconded from their employers, as against 19 in 1903. The partial failure of the system is attributed to the small remuneration which the boys can earn, and this again is said to be partly due to the fact that most of the boys are licensed as mill-hands, an occupation for which they have received no previous training. The Government has sanctioned the introduction of a weaving class at Alipore, and, when it is opened, an improvement in this connection may be anticipated; but this has had to be postponed, as a scheme for the removal of the school to a new site is under consideration. The Lieutenant-Governor is glad to observe that boys under license are now being assisted with money during their probationary period, and that this has led to a decrease in the number of failures. An offer recently made by Messrs. Cooper, Allen and Company of Cawnpore to receive boys from the schools and train them in the manufacture of leather, or as carpenters, iron-workers, blacksmiths, and mechanics, has been welcomed by the Lieutenant-Governor as affording an opportunity to the boys to follow occupations which they learn at school; and it is hoped that, by means of a sensible relaxation of the licensing rules, a considerable number of boys may eventually find profitable employment and useful careers in this way.

Literature and the Press.

Bengal Library.

600. The number of publications received and catalogued in the Bengal Library during 1904 was 3,054 against 2,887 in the preceding year, showing an increase of about 5·7 per cent. Of the publications received 2,141 were books and 913 periodicals. Of the books 1,922 were original publications and 219 republications and translations. Of the publications received 19 were catalogued under the head of "Art," 34 under "Biography," 78 under "Drama," 120 under "Fiction," 99 under "History and Geography," 397 under "Language," 53 under "Law," 164 under "Medicine," 926 under "Miscellaneous," 27 under "Philosophy," 207 under "Poetry," 1 under "Politics," 815 under "Religion," 109 under "Science," and 5 under "Travels."

Literature of the year.

601. The literature of the year under review is particularly rich in Biographical publications, among the most important being "Romatanu Lahiri, and the Bengali society of his day," Mahorshi Devendra Nath Thakur, and "The Autobiography of Kartikeya Ray (1820—1885), Dewan of the Kishnagore Raj. The literature under the head of Drama falls into four groups—translations,

social, mythological and historical. Translations include besides a dramatised version of Scott's Lady of the Lake and adaptations of Shakespeare's Richard III and Midsummer Night's Dream, one English, one Burmese, one Prakrit piece, and three Sanskrit pieces rendered into Bengali. The interest in the Prakrit piece named "Korpura Moyori" by Rajasekhar is chiefly linguistic and historical, the long list of Prakrit poets mentioned by the writer being specially noticeable. Social and mythological dramas do not disclose any new feature. The interest of the literature under this head really centres on the historical pieces. They derive their reputation from Bankim Chandra's novels and the teachings of the Bhagavatgita set forth in those novels. Their significance lies not in their literary or artistic merit but in the indications they afford of a possible moral and political awakening on the part of the educated classes. In Bengali fiction the influence of Theosophy has been very strongly marked. By furnishing an easy explanation of the ills and inequalities of life and by reviving the popular faith in spirits, gods and other invisible agencies which are supposed to rule the destinies of men, it has proved a valuable ally to the average Bengali novelist, who is ever ready to indent on the supernatural and the supersensible. Spirit and invisible helpers now take the place of the Sunyasis, the former wonder-workers of the Bengali novel. Historical and Geographical literature consists mostly of school books. Under "Miscellaneous" a number of publications were published dealing with social, educational and general topics. One of the most interesting was a collection of essays attempting to solve the problem of the day, viz., what ought to be India's ideal in the future,—the Hindu's ideal of *tyag* or self-effacement or the western ideal of Svadhinata-pravritti or individualism? The writer's solution is that India should have both the ideals blended harmoniously in a third—the ideal of the Science of humanity. The revival of interest in Sanskrit metres is a feature of the Bengali poetry of the year under notice, and several of the poems published prove the adaptability of such metres to Bengali verse. Of the 913 periodicals, 78 were in Bengali, 34 in English, 6 in Hindi, 6 in Bengali and English, 3 in Bengali and Sanskrit, and 1 each in Garo-Sanskrit, Urdu, and English-Sanskrit.

The most important publications issued by the Bengal Secretariat Book Depôt during the year were "Annals of the Royal Botanical Gardens, Calcutta," "The Salt Manual," "Manual of Practical Instruction regarding Famine Relief in Bengal," "Tannery and working in leather in Bengal," "Land Registration Manual," "Certificate Manual," "An account (Geographical, Statistical and Historical) of Orissa," "Selections from the Records of the Bengal Government containing papers from 1865 to 1904," "Report on the cultivation of and Trade in Jute in Bengal and on Indian Fibres," "Report of the Septic Tank Committee."

602. Thirty-nine prosecutions were instituted under the Act against 21 in the previous year. There were convictions in 37 cases and in the other 2 cases the defendants were discharged. The fees realised for the registration of copyrights amounted to Rs. 140. **Working of Act XXV of 1867.**

603. The number of vernacular newspapers in existence at the close of the year was 89. Twenty-five newpapers were started during the year, while 10 old papers ceased to exist, there being thus a net increase of 15 papers during 1904-1905. Of the 89 papers five were monthlies, 9 were fortnightlies, 16 quarterlies, 68 weeklies and 6 dailies. Some of the most important topics that engaged the attention of the vernacular press during the year were—the Tibet Mission, the Cabul Mission, Police Reform, the Calcutta University, the Viceroy's Convocation Speech, the Universities Act, the Co-operative Credit Societies Act, the National Congress and the Reform of the Panchayet System. In the general tone and style of the native press there has been little or no change. The papers have shown hostility to Government on most of the subjects that have attracted the attention of the classes which they represent: and even when they awarded thanks to Government for any measure, they generally suggested some defect in it or some doubt as to its real utility. As usual no opportunity was lost of drawing attention to any alleged favouritism of the white race and, by the more rancorous papers, of drawing fancy pictures of the hardships and miseries of the Indian people. Sometimes a case of oppression or abuse is brought to light, sometimes public opinion is freely represented, and sometimes, therefore, some good is done by these papers. But in the case of the **The Native Press.**

majority a culpable carelessness in receiving complaints, a disregard of justice in attacks on individuals and exaggeration and marked hostility in the criticism of Government measures render their influence of little value.

Literary Societies.

See—
GENERAL ADMINISTRATION REPORT FOR 1901-1902, PART II, PAGES 321-22.

Arts and Sciences.

Schools of Art.

604. The number of Art schools remained unchanged during the year. These—one Government and three Unaided schools (all located in Calcutta)—showed an increase of 24 pupils.

Government School of Art.

605. The number of pupils in the Government School of Art increased by four, from 241 to 245, during the year under report. The total expenditure on this school amounted during the year to Rs. 43,991, of which Rs. 38,052 were met from Provincial Revenues and Rs. 5,939 from fees.

The school has two sections, viz., Divisions I and II—

(*a*) *Division I (or the Industrial Art side)*—Was attended by 223 students. It consists of the Advanced Design class, Architectural, Engineering and other classes. The students continued to practice Fresco decoration, stencilling, Lacquer work, Lithography, Wood-engraving, and stained glass window work, and executed some private work in each of the subjects.

(*b*) *Division II (or the Fine Art side)*—Was attended by 22 students who practised the usual course of drawing and painting and attained very fair proficiency. They, however, show a great lack of interest in higher artistic work. In spite of inducements, it is rarely that any student does any work out of school hours or in the vacations. This is never the case in Europe, where the vacations are purposely made long in order to afford students greater opportunities for independent work.

Art Gallery.

606. The art gallery remained open for 207 days during the year. The number of visitors to the institution was fewer by 4,551. The total expenditure including purchases was Rs. 6,776.

The former scheme of the gallery, which was found unworkable and misleading to Indian Art students, had to be given up. In consequence, more than two-thirds of the collection of European pictures were sold at the prices originally paid for them. Under the new scheme the gallery will be the "Art section" of the Indian Museum under the Principal of the School of Art. A new gallery will be built to provide additional accommodation.

Purchase of Works of Art.

607. The purchases for the year, including frames, show-cases and screens, amounted to Rs. 4,074. They included important additions to the Nepalese and Tibetan metal-ware, Indian paintings and some valuable textiles.

Technical Education, C. E. College, Sibpur.

608. The Civil Engineering College, Sibpur, is the only college in the Province for imparting technical education. It consists of four departments, viz.—(1) the Engineering Department, (2) the Apprentice Department, (3) the Artisan class, and (4) the Agricultural Department. The roll number in the first three departments was 339 during the year under report.

Technical Schools.

609. Technical Schools are started to educate workers in their own arts, professions or trades. They chiefly comprise Industrial schools, Commercial schools and Agricultural institutions.

Industrial Schools.

610. There were, in the year under report, 36 Industrial schools with 1,212 pupils, against 27 schools with 806 pupils in the previous year. One of these schools, at Ranchi, was a Government school, 10 were Board, 19 Aided, and 6 Unaided schools. The increase of 9 schools and of 406 pupils during the year indicate that the people are gradually appreciating the technical education imparted in these schools. In addition to the instruction given in drawing, surveying and engineering, the pupils are taught carpentry, blacksmith's work, etc. The Technical School at Boalia in Rajshahi district has a sericultural department teaching the theory and practice of silkworm culture, the growing of mulberry trees and the use of microscope for detecting diseases in silkworms.

At the Santipur Industrial School in Balasore, weaving with the aid of ordinary and fly-shuttle looms, pottery, carpentry and blacksmith's work are taught.

The study of science is prosecuted in training schools, schools and colleges for general education, and also in medical colleges and medical schools, and in the Belgachia Veterinary College. Drawing forms part of the curricula in primary, secondary and training schools.

Commercial Schools.

611. There were during the year four Commercial schools—all in the town of Calcutta,—viz., one the Commercial class attached to the Presidency College and three Unaided schools teaching short-hand, type-writing and book-keeping, etc. The first has been recently strengthened by the appointment of lecturers in the several subjects taught in the class.

B.Sc. Class.

612. These classes are attached to the Presidency College and sent up 15 candidates, of whom three passed at the last B.Sc. Examination.

B and C Class Examinations.

613. *B and C Classes.*—There were during the year under report 10 B classes leading up to the engineering standard and five C classes leading towards commercial work—all attached to high schools. B classes were attached to the schools at Midnapore, Barisal, Comilla, Mymensingh, Rangpur, Ranchi, Pabna and the Comilla Victoria Collegiate School, and the C classes were attached to the Hare School and to the schools at Uttarpara and Hooghly. Both B and C classes were also attached to the collegiate schools at Dacca and Bankipore.

614. Altogether 51 candidates were sent up to the B class examination, of whom 25 passed. Fourteen of the successful candidates obtained junior scholarships, viz., three first grade scholarships of Rs. 16, five second grade scholarships of Rs. 12 and six third grade scholarships of Rs. 8. There were nine candidates at the C class examination and five only were successful, of whom four obtained junior scholarships, viz., one first grade, one second grade and two third grade.

Special grants for the encouragement of study of Science.

615. The Astronomical Observatory attached to the Presidency College was developed during the year with a special grant of Rs. 12,000 sanctioned for this purpose. A considerable amount (nearly Rs. 25,000) from Provincial Revenues was expended for the purpose of supplying Government colleges with chemicals and apparatus.

Scholarships.

616. Two of the Research scholars elected during the year under report will carry on research in scientific subjects.

State Technical Scholarships for natives of India.

617. State Technical scholarships for natives of India have been created by the Government of India. Last year, on the recommendation of the Director of Public Instruction, Bengal, four scholars were selected by the Government of India to undergo a course of training in the management of mines. Suitable arrangements were made by the Secretary of State for the reception of these scholars at the University of Birmingham from the beginning of the session, 5th October 1904.

618. With regard to the proposal made in connection with the first batch of the State technical scholars, the Government of India wrote: "The proposals made in your letter appear to the Government of India to be suitable and to promise well as the first practical step towards an important experiment. I am therefore to convey sanction of the grant to the four persons selected of State technical scholarships each of the value of £150 a year, exclusive of the fees to be paid at the Birmingham University and of travelling expenses. The scholarships will be for two years, subject to an extension for one year (under certain conditions). The scholars will be provided with second class passage to London by sea."

Following up the principle of nomination adopted last year, recommendations were made for the selection of the second batch for 1905. The Government of India has sanctioned two out of four candidates recommended, and they have just left for England.

Scholarship for Technical Education.

619. In the Burdwan Division, three scholarships of Rs. 6 each tenable for two years are awarded by the Burdwan Raj State. In the Presidency Division, the District Board of Nadia continued seven technical scholarships of Rs. 3-8 and one veterinary scholarship of Rs. 10, and the District Board of the 24-Parganas two veterinary scholarships of Rs. 10 each. A medical scholarship of Rs. 5 was given by that Board to a female candidate. All the District Boards in the Patna Division and the Patna Municipality have created a number of scholarships tenable at the Bihar School of Engineering and open only to the

bonâ fide residents of the districts concerned. The total number of these scholarships was 29 during the year—Patna District Board gave seven scholarships of Rs. 5, Patna Municipality two of Rs. 5, Gaya District Board two of Rs. 7, Shahabad four of Rs. 5, Saran eight of Rs. 7, Champaran two of Rs. 5, Muzaffarpur two of Rs. 5 and Darbhanga two of Rs. 10. A scholarship of Rs. 12, given by the Patna District Board, is tenable at the Belgachia Veterinary College. One scholarship of Rs. 10 to a female student, four of Rs. 5 and two of Rs. 6 are given also by that Board to students reading in the Temple Medical School at Patna.

CHAPTER VIII.—ARCHÆOLOGY.

Archæology.

620. The work of restoring and preserving the ruins at Gaur and Pandua in Malda was continued. The works for preserving the Jaga Mohan of the Kanarak temple in Puri were completed, and good progress was made with the planting of trees outside the temple enclosure and the construction of the inspection bungalow for the use of visitors thereto. A shed was erected for the preservation of the statue of Budha at Ganjam in the district of Gaya. The pillar bearing an inscription in front of the temple at Deo-Banarak in Shahabad was raised on a masonry platform.

CHAPTER IX—MISCELLANEOUS.

Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction.

See—

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION REPORT FOR 1901-1902, PART II, PAGE 325.

Ecclesiastical.

Establishment.

621. The Ecclesiastical establishment in Bengal during the year, paid entirely or in part by the Government, consisted of the Lord Bishop of Calcutta, the Archdeacon of Calcutta, the Domestic Chaplain to the Lord Bishop, the Registrar of the Diocese and Archdeaconry of Calcutta, the Most Rev. Archbishop Dr. Brice Meuleman, S.J., 16 Chaplains of the Church of England, two Chaplains of the Church of Scotland, 14 Ministers of the Additional Clergy Society or other Societies, and ten priests of the Roman Catholic Church.

Stationery Department and Printing.

Stationery and Printing.

622. In order to improve the management and control of the Department of Stamps and Stationery in India and introduce greater efficiency and economy in the Administration of the Government Printing Presses, the Department of Stamps and Stationery at Calcutta has been transferred, with effect from the 1st July 1904, to the direct administrative control of the Government of India, and a Controller of Printing and Stationery has been appointed in place of the Superintendent of Stamps and Stationery, Bengal.

Chemical Examiner's Department.

[Report of the Chemical Examiner for the year 1904, Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India, Section VIII.]

Chemical Examiner's Department.

623. During 1904, the total number of analyses performed was 5,232, or 127 fewer than in the previous year. The decrease is accounted for by a reduction from 341 to 151 in the number of samples referred for spirit determination by the Customs authorities, who have acted on the suggestion made last year that much of this work might be done in their own laboratory. There has been a steady increase in the work done for the Ordnance Department, and in 1904 the number of analyses reached 850, of which 818 referred to samples of fulminate of mercury. The flash point of 298 samples of kerosine oil was examined for the Port Commissioners, and 149 samples were analysed for the Excise Department, chiefly of caoutchoucene, opium, country spirit and methylated spirit. One hundred and forty-four samples of water were analysed, of which only 22 were classed as good, while 12 were found to be impure, the worst specimens being those from two wells at Bhagalpur, Kotwali and Mokameh Dispensary.

624. The Medico-legal Department investigated 1,594 cases or four less than in the previous year, when the number was the highest on record. Of 583 human viscera sent for examination, poison was detected in 45 per cent.; the proportion was somewhat higher in the case of vomited matter and excreta. As in 1903 the proportion of suspected cases in which poison was actually discovered was considerably lower in respect of cases examined by Civil Surgeons than in those examined by Assistant Surgeons and Hospital Assistants; and it is a question whether the latter officers are always sufficiently ready to seek the Chemical Examiner's assistance. The report contains interesting notes on some of the more important poisoning cases. Opium was found in two-fifths of the cases of human remains in which poison was detected, arsenic in one-fifth, and aconite in one-ninth. In the case of cattle nearly three-fourths of the viscera examined were found to contain poison, which was arsenic in all cases.

Zoological Garden, Calcutta.

[Report of the Honorary Committee for the Management of the Zoological Garden for the year 1904-1905.]

Zoological Garden, Calcutta.

625. The most noteworthy event of the year was the acquisition of a strip of land 960 feet in length and 120 feet in breadth along the western boundary from the Kidderpore Orphanage Estate. For this the Committee are indebted to the Government of India. The liberal grant from the Government of India of one lakh of rupees recorded in last year's report has been utilised in permanent improvements, consisting chiefly of cleaning the beds of the tanks, raising and draining the lowlying deer paddocks along the south-west boundary of the garden, and reconstructing the Dumraon Monkey-house. The financial condition of the Garden has been exceptionally good, the receipts from visitors having amounted to Rs. 24,168, which is better than the preceding year by no less than Rs. 8,211-3. The number of visitors has greatly increased. The turnstile records show a total for the year of 346,254, a daily average of 949, excluding infants under four years of age and school children attended by their teachers who were admitted free. The number of mammals was 450, of birds 855, and reptiles 266.

Veterinary Department.

[The Annual Report of the Civil Veterinary Department, Bengal, and of the Bengal Veterinary College for the year 1904-1905.]

Veterinary Instruction.

626. The number of students who attended the Bengal Veterinary College throughout the year under review was 85, practically double the number of the preceding year. The results of the examinations are highly creditable to the Principal and teaching staff. On account of the rapid development of the College, sanction has been accorded to proposals which will effect great changes. An additional area of 106 bighas 19 cottahs, at a cost of Rs. 2,15,948, was acquired by Government during the year; and a programme has been drawn up for the construction of buildings, including hostels for students, isolated boxes for diseased horses, a dissecting room, a lecture theatre, and other important works, all urgently required, at an estimated cost of Rs. 4,00,000. As the Government of India have recently allotted extra funds to the Government of Bengal for the development of agriculture, including the veterinary department, this Government will now be in a position to complete the buildings more rapidly. Proposals are also under consideration to appoint a separate Imperial officer as Principal of the College, as the work of superintendence will in future take up the whole of one officer's time.

Treatment of Diseases.

627. One hundred and eight horses against 57 of the preceding year were treated in the Belgachia Contagious Diseases' Hospital for glanders and farcy, of which 17 recovered. In the whole Province 447 deaths from this disease were reported; of these 413 were diagnosed in the 24-Parganas district. The Glanders and Farcy Act will shortly be brought into force in Calcutta, and thus the prevalence of the disease will be brought more closely to the notice of the horse-owning public.

The number of deaths of cattle from contagious diseases shows a considerable increase over that of the year 1903-1904, the number having risen from 9,529 to 15,108. The increase was principally due to rinderpest, the number of deaths from which rose from 7,456 to 11,363; this disease was particularly prevalent in Shahabad, a district which scarcely suffered at all in the preceding year. Of this number (11,363) only 183 had been previously inoculated. Altogether 13,276 animals were inoculated with the anti-rinderpest serum against 9,454 during the year 1903-1904. These good results are doubtless due to the measures taken by the Superintendent to disseminate the knowledge and value of the use of the serum, by the deputation of Staff Veterinary Assistants to different districts, and by the training of local Veterinary Assistants at Bareilly in inoculation for rinderpest. Foot-and-mouth disease was most prevalent in Ranchi, anthrax in Mymensingh, and hæmorrhagic septicæmia in the Sonthal Parganas. Specially good work is reported to have been done in Darbhanga and Saran by Veterinary Assistants on tour in the treatment of cattle for contagious diseases, and the number of

deaths reported from these two districts were very small compared with the large number of animals treated.

Veterinary Dispensaries and Assistants.

628. The total number of dispensaries, excluding the Bengal Veterinary College, working at the close of the year under review was 21 against 22 of the preceding year. Though the number of patients is apparently less than last year, there has actually been an increase. The Superintendent explains that this is due to the fact that in one dispensary last year each visit of an out-patient was reckoned as that of a new patient, and the error has now been corrected. Of the dispensaries established during the previous year, the Dinajpur Dispensary has had no in-patients owing to the difficulty of acquiring land for the necessary buildings, but it has done good work amongst out-patients. The Noakhali Dispensary had unfortunately to be closed owing to the impossibility of securing the services of a qualified Veterinary Assistant; and in Purnea, owing to the fact that its dispensary was placed on a bad site which will be changed, little or nothing was done. The difficulty experienced at Noakhali, it is hoped, will be overcome by the scheme which is now under contemplation for the complete reorganization of the Veterinary Department, including the creation of a graded service. The scheme cannot be brought into force at once; but with the rapid extension of the Bengal Veterinary College, and with the improved prospects which will be opened out to officers of the Department, His Honour is confident that in future there will not be the present difficulty in meeting the demands of the various districts for Veterinary Assistants, and that ultimately every subdivision in Bengal will have its own itinerant as well as stationary Veterinary Assistant. The difficulties encountered at Dinajpur and Purnea foreshadow others that may be met with in the development of the Department. To cope with them, His Honour looks to the District Boards and Municipalities for their loyal support in the matter of the improvement, construction, and extension of Dispensary buildings.

Bengal Veterinary Hospital Belgachia.

629. The infirmary continues to do excellent work: 2,982 cases were treated and 759 operations performed against 2,819 and 723, respectively, of the previous year. The number of cruelty cases in which animals cruelly treated were sent by Magistrates for treatment dropped from 278 in 1903-04 to 83. A qualified Veterinary Assistant has now been appointed to watch these cases in Court and to advise the Magistrates as to whether the animal should be sent to the infirmary for treatment or not. The development of the infirmary forms a portion of the larger scheme for the development of the Bengal Veterinary College.

Breeding Operations.

630. It is too early as yet to express any opinion on the result of the cattle-breeding farms at Pusa and Sripur. It has been decided to drop the proposal to establish bull-acclimatization depôts. For the present it is proposed to send a few bulls from the above farms to Belgachia and to one or two other farms, and if after the period of acclimatization is over it is found that they are more useful than young bulls imported direct from Pusa and Sripur, the question of establishing depôts may be again revived. Several purchases were made during the year for Pusa out of the grant of this Government amounting to Rs. 50,000 for bull-breeding.

Fairs and Shows.

631. There were 10 fairs and shows during the year against 7 of the preceding year. New fairs were opened at Sripur, Midnapore and Comilla. It is to be regretted that, owing to the poor specimens of indigenous breeds of cattle exhibited, it was not possible to distribute the whole prize fund. It is hoped, however, that with a fuller advertisement of the fairs and of the policy of Government in regard to improvement of the best local breeds by the grant of prizes these fairs will attract exhibits by the *bonâ fide* cultivator, as well as by the richer classes, and encourage the breed of better cattle by selection from the best specimens of the best local types.

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